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BACK IN THE FOLD

John Woodcock on English cricket's return to South Africa, **PAGE 46**

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Chief Executive

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THE TIMES

DIEU ET MON DROIT

No. 65,402 THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 1995

Scheme to ease burden on families

Nursing fees may be paid for the old

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

OLD PEOPLE living in private residential homes are to have their nursing costs paid for by the Government under proposals being drawn up by ministers.

The plan, which could be announced in the Budget next month and phased in over several years, is designed to defuse mounting middle-class dismay over pensioners who have to sell their homes to pay for care, denying their children their inheritance.

Ministers are looking at a £150 million scheme to cover the 150,000 people who now pay the full costs of their care. The plan would cover only nursing expenses; residents would still be expected to pay accommodation fees, and although the cost is relatively modest now, it will soar as the population ages.

The scheme will be the first tangible outcome of a six-month review of the growing cost of old age carried out by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, and the Downing Street Policy Unit on the Prime Minister's orders. John Major, who wants to phase out inheritance tax, is concerned about the impact of costly care both on pensioners today and on their children, who will be denied the home or nestegg they were expecting.

Other options include raising the £8,000 savings threshold that cuts off state care for nursing home fees — although that could mean raising the threshold for all social security benefits at exorbitant cost — and offering tax breaks to those willing to save for their old age. Another longer term measure could be to require younger people to insure against the cost of going into a home.

In some cases, the elderly have been forced to sell their houses to pay nursing home fees of £350 a week and more.

Dorrell: making bid for extra funding

Many have to do so after spending two or three years in less expensive residential homes; once their health deteriorates, they need the more intensive care of nursing homes, which can cost an extra £100 a week.

Ministers argue that people now in nursing homes used to get state care in geriatric hospitals. But over the past ten years, more and more people have been moved into nursing homes, where they have to pick up the bill. "The issue is whether the State should provide care from the cradle to the grave, which was one of the founding principles of the NHS," one ministerial source said.

Paying part of the cost would address this problem, without a huge increase in public spending. But Treasury sources are still nervous about the long-term cost implications — state spending on residential and nursing home care has already risen to more than £2.2 billion from £10 million in 1979.

The plan has also faced opposition from Cabinet ministers such as Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, who is arguing against any change on principle rather than cost.

Mr Lilley, whose own budget would be marginally affected, believes that those who can afford it should pay for their care and argued that the inheritance argument holds little weight. He argues that only one person in six goes into a residential home and the average length of stay is only two years, so there is not a huge problem to be addressed.

However, Mr Dorrell is firmly pushing for change and is bidding for his budget to be expanded if necessary. He is thought to believe that improvements in the standards of care for poorer pensioners has fuelled the sense of injustice felt by those having to pay their own way.

Mr Dorrell is also said to be considering a complete overhaul of residential and nursing care funding in the state sector to complement the changes, so that the Health Department would finance health care costs while social services departments paid for accommodation.

Ministerial sources admitted that disagreement over the best option could delay an announcement until next year, and some Cabinet ministers are arguing that any announcement should be held back for the Conservative manifesto.

But one source said: "It would make good political sense to make an announcement sooner — in the Budget — rather than later. The Prime Minister has been looking at this for six months. But it depends whether agreement can be reached between ministers."

It is likely that any package will be phased in over several years, so that costs are contained initially. It is possible that part of the programme will be announced in the Budget with the remainder reserved for the manifesto.

Marines' new ship crashes on slipway

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

A £140 million helicopter assault ship for the Royal Marines has been damaged after an accident during an informal launching ceremony.

The 20,500-tonne carrier *HMS Ocean*, which is due to be in service by 1998, was running smoothly down the slipway at the Kvaerner Govan yard on the Clyde when wooden supports broke away.

Witnesses to last week's private launching said that the bow of the ship crashed down on to concrete, damaging the hull, before reaching the water. One report said the ship also hit a tug, although this was not confirmed by the Ministry of Defence. One spectator said: "It was extremely hairy. You don't want to see a 20,500-tonne ship out of control coming towards you."

The ship has been under construction at the Govan yard, owned by the Norwegian shipbuilding company Kvaerner. The British company VSEL, based at Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, is the prime builder. After completion, *HMS Ocean* will be fitted for her military role at the Barrow yard.

The cost of repairs will have to be met by the shipbuilders, who signed a contract which is understood to have included liability for any accident during launch.

A VSEL spokesman said: "The extent of the damage is currently being assessed and it will be rectified." It was hoped that the repairs could be accommodated "within the existing timescale for completion of the vessel".

The helicopter carrier is being built for the Royal Marines to replace the old *HMS Hermes*, which was sold to the Indian navy.

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Cunningham election defeat

John Cunningham, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, lost his place in the Shadow Cabinet in yesterday's elections.

The defeat for one of Labour's most senior figures was the only surprise in a poll that saw Clare Short, Labour's spokesman on women's issues, elected for the first time. Donald Dewar, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, is to become the new Labour chief whip.

French banks raise their rates

Four of France's largest banks announced a rise in the basic lending rate last night in a move that brings further economic and political pressure on the embattled Government of Prime Minster Alain Juppé. The increase from 7.9 per cent to 8.2 per cent is the first tightening of credit conditions since last December.

Terrorist ultimatum, page 14

Appeal fails

A hospital consultant has been disciplined by an NHS trust after writing to *The Times* about the shortage of intensive-care beds. Dr Bob Bown has lost his appeal against a formal warning issued over the letter .... Page 9

STEWART FRASER

Red Rum, ridden by Tommy Stack, winning the National for the third time

Grand National hero Red Rum dies at 30

By Simon Barnes

IT was the passing of a hero, nothing less. Yesterday Red Rum died: a horse whose name was synonymous with the most precious and elusive commodity in sport — victory. Victory in the hardest, most exacting circumstances. Three wins in the Grand National: it really is true. We shall not see his like again.

On May 3 this year, he stepped out of his retirement from public life to make an appearance at Aintree, home of the Grand National, to celebrate his 30th birthday. A grand age for a horse.

John Burgess, his vet, was called to attend to him early yesterday. "For a short time, he had not been himself," Burgess said. "I found him in a distressed state, obviously very weak and showing signs of circulatory failure."

There was nothing left to do but perform the last rites and say the farewells. Ginger McCain, his trainer for all three Grand National wins, said: "The old lad has had a wonderful life and been a marvellous friend. A very remarkable old horse — seriously magical." Indeed: not a bad bargain for 400 guineas, his price as a yearling. He began his racing career on the Flat, and did so, remarkably enough, by dead-heating. He went on to win three times over hurdles and five times over fences before Lurlene Brotherton sold him for 6,000 guineas to Noel le Mare.

Red Rum then went to McCain's yard, behind the secondhand car showroom in Southport, where he trained daily on the endless sands. From then on, the rest is, of course, history.

Red Rum won the Grand National in 1973 and 1974, was second the following two years, to L'Escargot and to Rag Trade, but came back in triumph to win again in 1977. He retired on the eve of the big race the following year.

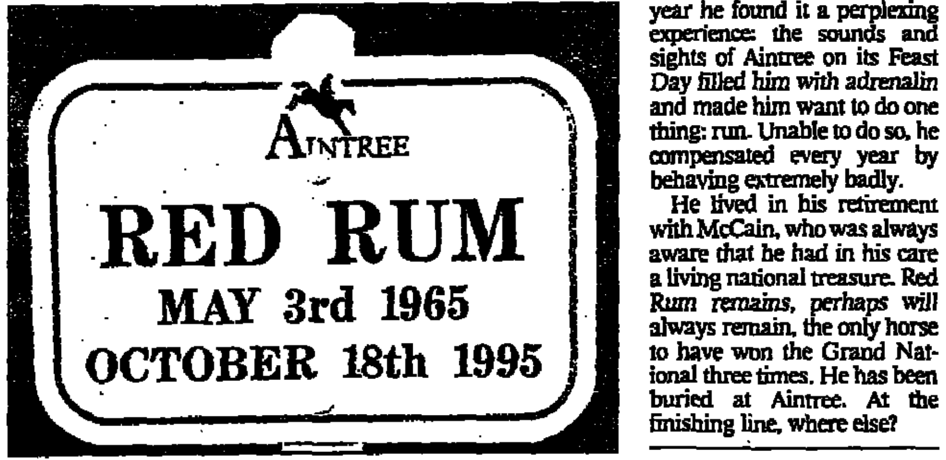
He owes his place in national affections not for flashy looks or extravagant technique, but for winning. Specifically, for winning the Grand National, the biggest betting race of the year. He was the horse who made a lottery into a certainty.

There was nothing startling about his jumping, save its consistency. He jumped with something like a showjumper's care, a thoughtful economy, but he added to that a remorseless gallop between fences that broke the stamina and the heart of his rivals.

He would probably have been rather a bore to interview: no extravagant claims, no wild statements. I just take each fence as it comes and gallop till I get past the winning post. He won 24 of his 100 races over obstacles, and collected £114,371 in prize-money, which was a record for a jumper when he retired.

After his retirement, he became a full time celebrity, opening supermarkets and betting shops, taking on anything short of after-dinner speaking. Every year from 1978 to 1984, he led the parade of runners before the start of the Grand National, every year he found it a perplexing experience: the sounds and sights of Aintree on its Feast Day filled him with adrenalin and made him want to do one thing: run. Unable to do so, he compensated every year by behaving extremely badly.

He lived in his retirement with McCain, who was always aware that he had in his care a living national treasure. Red Rum remains, perhaps will always remain, the only horse to have won the Grand National three times. He has been buried at Aintree. At the finishing line, where else?



The plaque on the grave at the course finishing line

Sport, page 48

Howard ready to come out fighting as Lewis sues

By Philip Webster and Richard Ford

MICHAEL HOWARD will today mount a vigorous fightback against calls for his resignation as the former head of the Prison Service prepares to take him to court for wrongful dismissal.

The Home Secretary was reported last night to be ready to "come out with all guns blazing" in a Commons debate on the service and although his position looked secure last night, the prospect of another potentially dangerous tussle with the courts was causing serious concern among ministers.

Derek Lewis, who was sacked on Monday as Director-General of the Prison Service, yesterday issued a writ against Mr Howard, whose troubles were compounded by the resignation of a Prisons Board director over his treatment of Mr Lewis. Geoffrey Keeys, a non-executive director, said he strongly believed that Mr Lewis should have remained in office; another non-executive director is also considering standing down.

The developments led to Alan Beith of the Liberal Democrats adding to the calls for Mr Howard to resign, while Labour's Jack Straw said Shadow Home Secretary's position was untenable. Downing Street reiterated, however, that Mr Howard continued to enjoy the Prime Minister's full support.

Mr Lewis's writ cites a series of incidents which he claims show that Mr Howard regularly interfered in the day-to-day running of the prisons. Mr Howard's denial of such interference is the prime reason given for by ministers for the buck stopping at Mr Lewis and not him.

The writ says that Mr Howard tried to alter search plans drawn up after an escape from Whitemoor in September last year; instructed Mr Lewis to make statements critical of the Prison Officers Association, and required him to go to the Home Office on average once daily to discuss operational matters.

It also contests Mr Howard's claim that he did not try to force the suspension of John Marriott, the Parkhurst governor, after the escape of three dangerous prisoners in January. The writ mentions the "extreme and unjustified pressure" exerted on Mr Lewis by Mr Howard to have Mr Marriott suspended. It also says that Mr Howard set a deadline for Mr Marriott to go and said that he would overrule him if he did not comply.

Lewis writ 2
William Rees-Mogg 20
Letters 21

Mr Lewis's action infuriated ministers. Conservative Party sources said last night that the writ amounted to little more than a "glorified press release" and was clearly designed to enhance Mr Lewis's claim for compensation. Sources said that Mr Howard would reply "robustly" to all the charges against him and deny that he told Mr Lewis to suspend Mr Marriot.

Mr Howard will also tell the Commons today that he has acted entirely properly within the terms of the agreement governing the relationship between the Prison Service and the Home Secretary. This states that while he would not normally become involved in the day-to-day management of the service, he would expect to be consulted by the Director-General on the handling of

Continued on page 2, col 3

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Debutant delivers deadly line in dictation at Dispatch Box

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

AS WE *debate how far* ministers are responsible for "operational" matters, your sketchwriter remembers trying to counter (as an MP) a hostile question to the late Nicholas Ridley from Dennis Skinner, about defects in the rail service *from London to Derby.*

Ridley had replied that this was "an operational matter, for the Chairman of British Rail". So I jumped up and asked *him whether it was not* true that the service was in fact much improved.

Ridley mumbled, in his bored way: "As I refuse the *brickbats,* so I *must* refuse the bouquets. This is an operational matter, for the Chairman *of British* Rail." Or words to that effect. God rest his soul. Intellectual honesty is water in the desert of British politics.

Which *is why the new* Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, so impresses. I watched this latest Scot to join the Cabinet make his debut at *Scottish Questions yesterday* afternoon.

The Scottish Conservative Party in Parliament numbers eleven: a small pond. Yet it already contains two very big fish. Malcolm Rifkind, the *Foreign Secretary, and* Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, are big and getting bigger.

To watch Mr Forsyth is to *see another serious contender.* With the Tory Right now doubtful who leads it, this most thoughtful of right-wingers grows even more interesting. Mr Forsyth has grown in Dispatch Box skill. *Yesterday he was* cool, assured and deadly.

Mr Forsyth listens to the question, thinks on his feet, then gets properly to grips *with it. Whatever defensive* skill ministers may show in turning aside the argument, it is still a joy to see a politician impatient to engage with it.

Forsyth, a small, stooped figure, crouches bright-eyed on the front bench like a panther who cannot wait to pounce.

He leaps at the Dispatch *Box, confident of his intellectual* mastery, unafraid of what anyone may throw at him, because he understands his own argument. He speaks in a coiled, *measured,* very slightly menacing way, as though dictating.

Hansard reporters will need little work on a Forsyth answer: the phrasing, the grammar, the balance of subordinate clauses — almost the punctuation — are all there. One has little difficulty in *believing the rumour that his* daughter used to keep puff-adders as pets.

The new Scottish Secretary has plainly decided to ram home a simple message whenever he can: that a Scottish Parliament's "tartan tax" will *hammer Scotland.* Running rings round questioners, he took a mischievous delight in ambushing them from unexpected quarters — praising, for instance, the general secretary of the Scottish TUC, with whom it appears Scots Labour MPs have had a falling out.

In case Mr Forsyth should have any doubt of his ability to win the argument, I can assure him that he always can.

Sometimes he looks like the leading car in a race. Where others go flat out, Mr Forsyth is *still only in second gear.* Winning will not be his problem. His problem is two-sided.

First, he can look and sound *like a natural stage-*villain: a well-cast Iago. He lacks apparent warmth. To remedy that, he should study old video-tapes of *David* Hunt as Welsh Secretary. Second, intellectual mastery can lead to *incaution.*

Yesterday he told the House: "I may be the last Scottish *Secretary with the* power to argue for Scotland from within a United Kingdom Cabinet".

Ministers are not supposed to *contemplate defeat.* If Mr Forsyth could learn a little more cuddliness and circum*spection,* nothing would stop him: but this sketchwriter, for one, would be sorry.

Writ alleges daily intervention

Lewis details how Home Secretary interfered in job

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

MICHAEL HOWARD intervened directly in the running of the Prison Service, including ordering its director-gen*eral to make hostile public* statements about the Prison Officers' Association, according to a writ issued by Derek Lewis, the former Director-*General, yesterday.*

Alleged details of the Home Secretary or Home Office's intervention in operational issues on an almost daily basis *were outlined in a writ issued* by Mr Lewis claiming wrongful dismissal as head of the Prison Service.

The writ, alleging pressures *applied through ministerial* interference, was delivered to the Treasury solicitors yesterday after Mr Lewis had spent several hours consulting with *his legal advisers.*

It says that any targets that Mr Lewis failed to meet were substantially caused or contributed to by the "high level of involvement" by the Home Secretary. The writ lists 12 areas where Mr Howard is accused of intervening:

1. He is alleged to have *intervened in an attempt to* alter searching plans drawn up by the Prison Service after the escape of five IRA men from Whitemoor top security *jail in September 1994.*

2. He allegedly put Mr Lewis under "extreme and unjustified pressure" on January 10 to suspend John Marri*ott as Governor of Parkhurst* jail when Mr Lewis had decided to move him to another post. The pressure is said to have included Mr *Howard suggesting that he* would over-rule Mr Lewis if he did not comply with the Home Secretary's idea.

3. Mr Howard's alleged *insistence that Mr Marriott's* removal be "today" — the day he made a statement to the Commons — in spite of objections made by Mr Lewis.

4. He allegedly *required* Mr Lewis to make public statements "highly critical" of action by the Prison Officers' Association. This is believed to be *Mr Lewis's outburst after* the escape from Parkhurst in January when he accused the association of obstructing an internal inquiry.

5. *Mr Howard is said to* have put pressure on Mr Lewis to increase the severity of internal disciplinary action against prison officers and *governors.*

6. He allegedly required Mr Lewis to attend the Home Office on average once a day to discuss operational matters.

7. The alleged refusal by Mr Howard in September 1995 to allow the Prison Service to proceed with an operational decision to cut the number of jails holding category A inmates to improve security and save money.

8. The alleged failure by Mr Howard to devote sufficient *time to consider policy propos*als to bring in restrictions on home leave to protect the public. This resulted in a delay of about a year.

9. A 1½-*year delay said to* be induced by the "repeated personal involvement" of Mr Howard or his agents in recruiting a personnel director *for the Prison Service.*

10. The alleged requirement by Mr Howard that Mr Lewis delay urgently needed operational restructuring of area *manager arrangements.*

11. The "failure" of Mr Howard to provide resources to avoid delay in implementing the Woodcock security *recommendations after the* Whitemoor escape, despite assurances given to the Commons.

12. Mr Howard's "dilatory" consideration of proposed Code of Operating standards forming the basis of introduction of performance audit standards.

The writ *makes* clear that Mr Lewis is seeking damages equivalent to lost salary, bonus payments up to September 1996 and other "consequential" losses. Mr Lewis is also seeking a declaration that his sacking was unlawful. The *writ, drawn up by Russell* Jones and Walker, solicitors to Mr Lewis's trade union the First Division Association, makes it clear that no disci*plinary action had been taken* against the former Director-General before he was sacked.

By initiating High Court action, lawyers expect to get access *to documents that will* outline the involvement of Mr Howard.

Countdown to governor's move from Parkhurst

EVENTS *leading to the re*moval of John Marriott from Parkhurst jail are at the heart of allegations about Michael Howard's involvement in day-*to-day running of the Prison* Service (Richard Ford writes).

Mr Marriott left the governor's post after meetings in London and on the Isle of Wight *to discuss his future in* the aftermath of the second escape from a top-security prison within three months.

Monday January 9: Derek Lewis and senior advisers decide Mr Marriott should move from Parkhurst within a month.

Tuesday Jan 10, 9.30am: Philippa Drew, then director of custody in the Prison Service, arrives at Parkhurst prison for a meeting with Mr Marriott. She tells him that it has been decided there should be a change of governor. It is to be an orderly handover taking place in three to four weeks.

9am-10am: *Mr Lewis meets* Mr Howard at the Home Office only hours before the Home Secretary is to make a statement on the escape to the *Commons. Mr Lewis tells the* minister he will move Mr Marriott within four weeks.

(Mr Lewis says he came *under intense pressure from* Mr Howard to suspend the governor. He was given a deadline to agree and told that if he did not Mr Howard *might overrule him.*)

The Director-General leaves the meeting and returns later after a paragraph is drafted saying Mr Marriott *will be removed "today".* Mr Lewis objects to the word "today".

Noon: Miss Drew has lunch with Mr Marriott at the governor's home.

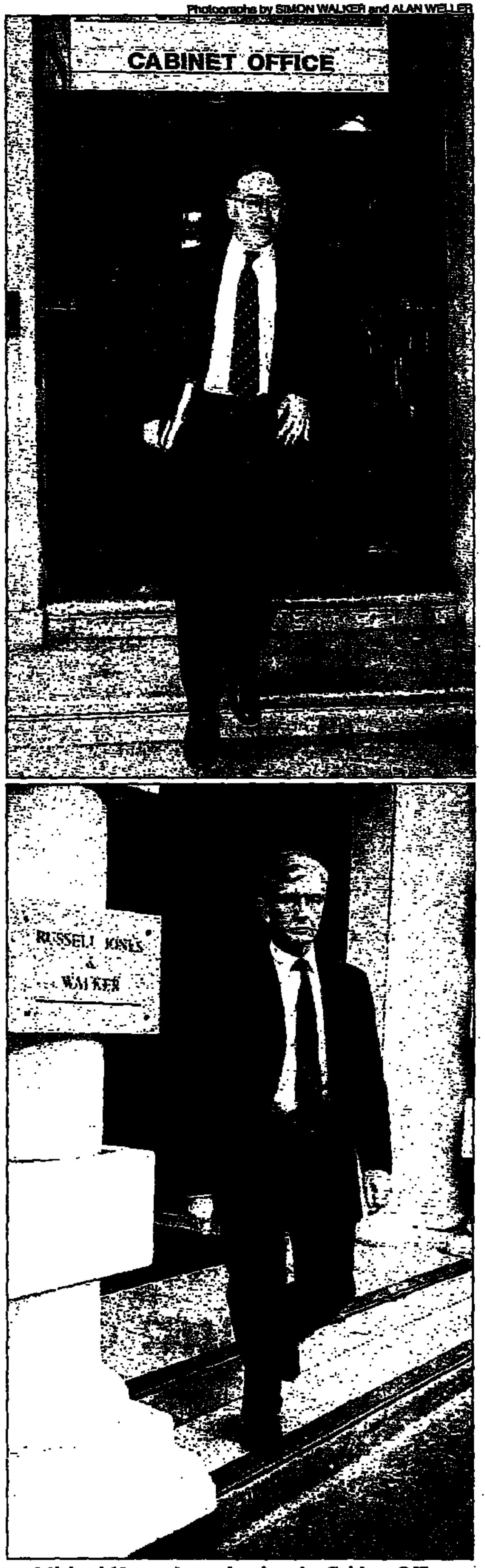
14.15: They return to Parkhurst.

14.45: Peter Kitteridge, Prison Service area manager, arrives at Parkhurst for discussions about three to four-week orderly handover.

15.45: Miss Drew receives telephone call. She writes down what she is told, then returns to the governor's office visibly distressed. The call was not from Mr Lewis.

15.50: Miss Drew makes a *telephone call to check she has* received the correct message. She then tells Mr Marriott and Mr Kitteridge that the governor is to lose his post *immediately. Within minutes* Mr Howard tells MPs in the Commons that Mr Marriott is being removed that day.

Photographs by SIMON WALKER and ALAN WELLER



Michael Howard, top, leaving the Cabinet Office and Derek Lewis outside his union solicitors' office in central London yesterday afternoon

Howard pledges to come out fighting

Continued from page 1

operational matters which *could give rise to grave public* or parliamentary concern.

Mr Howard's close colleagues said last night that he had an answer to every allega*tion that had been laid against* him and that Labour would have "egg on its face" at the end of the debate. Even so, ministers were dismayed that they were embroiled in an *increasingly bitter row with* Mr Lewis for the third successive day.

The former prisons chief had stepped up his attack by *releasing a dossier of confi*dential letters describing his relationship with the Home Office. He disclosed that he twice wrote to Mr Howard twice last week questioning *the Learmont report, which he* said was incomplete and not worth the £600,000 it had cost to produce.

Mr Howard was spared *another potential embarrass*ment last night, however, when the Home Affairs Select Committee decided not to recall Mr Lewis to give further evidence.

*The committee split on par*ty lines and the decision was reached only on the casting vote of the Conservative chairman, Sir Ivan Lawrence.

William Rees-Mogg and Diary, page 20
Letters, page 21

Release of letters is part of media campaign

By Richard Ford

DEREK LEWIS claimed yesterday that the Learmont report into the Parkhurst escape was "unbalanced, selective and inaccurate".

In two confidential letters which he had sent to the Home Secretary, Mr Lewis criticises the document for being based on partial and second-hand opinions and of ignoring evidence provided by senior managers.

Mr Lewis, sacked on Monday, opened up a new offensive against Michael Howard by releasing the letters, written earlier this month. It was the latest salvo in a swiftly organised media campaign. Within hours of being fired, he had hired his own public relations advisers who organised a string of television and radio appearances. He is being advised by Millbank PR, a small public relations firm run by Diana Saltman and Jackie Murphy, whom he has known since his days with UK Gold, the satellite television channel.

The letters show that he *wrote to Mr Howard during* the Conservative conference alleging that the inquiry report by Sir John Learmont was not wholly balanced. "In *many cases, the report app*ears to be based on partial opinions given in interviews, in some cases second hand, rather than on substantive *impartial evidence,"* he wrote on October 12.

The letter adds: "In many cases, hard evidence has not been sought or, where provid*ed by the [Prisons] Board,* has been ignored or dismissed. Examples include that on morale, paperwork, instructions and training. I do not think the evidence, whether opinion or fact, has been presented in a balanced way."

Mr Lewis's claims of ministerial interference in the running of the service is supported in comments in a letter sent to the Learmont *inquiry by Sir Duncan Nichol,* a non executive director of the Prisons Board. He wrote: "Ministerial involvement too detailed."

The letters, released through the First Division Association, which represents senior civil servants, imply that Mr Howard should have *been prepared to continue to* support him in his task of overhauling the service.

Moore: job switch

Sunday man wins the Daily Telegraph

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

CHARLES MOORE, Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph,* has been appointed editor of *The Daily Telegraph,* ending three weeks of uncertainty and speculation at the two broadsheet titles.

Mr Moore, 38, will replace Max Hastings, 49, who resigned to become Editor of the London *Evening Standard* early next year. Dominic Lawson, Editor of the *Telegraph*-owned *Spectator* magazine, is to be Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph.*

The Canadian entrepreneur Conrad Black, owner of the *Telegraph,* had initially *indicated that he intended to* fill Mr Hastings's post with an internal candidate. However, it has emerged that he first offered the job to Andrew Neil, *the broadcaster and* former Editor of *The Sunday Times,* and to Paul Dacre, Editor of the *Daily Mail.*

Mr Dacre, having initially *indicated that he would be* prepared to join *The Daily Telegraph* on a high salary, changed his mind when his editorial budget at the *Daily Mail* was increased.

Sir David English, chairman of Associated Newspapers, owners of *The Daily Mail* and the *Evening Standard,* confirmed that Mr Dacre had turned down the *Telegraph* editorship. "We *talked about his editorial* plans and I agreed that the company would underwrite them and this gave him an enormous enthusiasm to stay. *It was* not necessary to raise his salary."

Sources said that Mr Neil would accept the *Telegraph* editorship if he was allowed *to continue his* high-profile television and radio work. He managed to raise the *Telegraph's* offer even higher, but turned it down to concentrate on broadcasting.

The *Telegraph* statement said: "We received expressions of interest from and *had* extensive discussions with a number of prominent figures from other media organisations. We concluded that the strongest candidates were from within."

Simon Heffer, deputy editor of The Daily Telegraph, is tipped to become the new Editor of the *Spectator.*

Minister denies softer line on IRA

The Government denied Unionist claims yesterday that *it had changed its position on* the decommissioning of IRA weapons. Michael Ancram, Northern Ireland Minister, repeated that the IRA must *begin to decommission* before all-party talks, but emphasised a more flexible approach, saying that nobody had a "monopoly of wisdom".

His comments came after Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, said that he would consider alternative suggestions from a *proposed international disarmament* commission.

GPs to be tested

Measures to *raise the standards* of doctors who work badly were promised by Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, yesterday. He said treatment provided by GPs must be based on evidence of clinical effectiveness and value for money. Doctors will also have to undergo regular refresher courses to keep abreast of medical advances.

Parents' £50,000

Francis Auld, cleared of murdering Amanda Duffy, 19, at a car park in Hamilton, near Glasgow, in May 1992, has been ordered to pay £50,000 damages to her family. The Court of Session ruling came after *Joe and Kate Duffy* brought a civil action against Mr Auld, 22, who was freed after the criminal case against him was not proven.

Divorce defence

The Lord Chancellor responded to criticism of his proposed shake-up of divorce law yesterday, saying that a one-year, no-fault plan was designed to encourage opportunities for reconciliation. Lord Mackay of Clashfern was *speaking at* the re-launch of the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council as Marriage Care.

Leading article, page 21

Youth freed

One of two Asian youths accused of murdering Richard Everitt, 15, in a street attack in north London was freed at the *Old Bailey on the orders of the* judge. Mrs Justice Steel directed the jury to find Abdul-Hai, 20, not guilty of murder and four other charges "as a *matter* of law". The *trial* against another youth continues today.

Police own-goal

A policeman working under*cover to spot British hooligans* among football supporters at the match between Auxerre and Nottingham Forest on Tuesday night was hit on the head with a truncheon by a French policeman. PC Graham Murray, of Nottinghamshire police, fell down but received only minor injuries and was back on *duty yesterday.*

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Injuries leave mother unable to bring up daughter she had longed for

Woman burnt at friend's barbecue sues for £500,000

By Emma Wilkins

A MOTHER who suffered horrific burns when a friend poured methylated spirits on a garden barbecue has no prospect of leading a normal life again, the High Court in London was told yesterday.

Julia Chute, 48, who is suing for damages, says that she was so badly injured in the accident five years ago that she is unable to care for her daughter, Arabella, at home. The child, who was aged six at the time, was sent away to boarding school.

"I would never have sent Arabella away if I hadn't had the accident," Mrs Chute, from Winchester, said. "She's the first girl in my husband's family for five generations. She is so precious to us."

Mrs Chute, whose husband Robin is the estates bursar at Winchester College, was at a lunch party in her friend Amanda St Aubyn's garden, when the accident happened. Mrs St Aubyn, from Stockbridge, Hampshire, poured methylated spirits on the lit barbecue, which formed a fireball that blew on to Mrs Chute.

She suffered burns to 21 per cent of her body, developed a life-threatening infection and has undergone ten major operations. The accident was witnessed by Arabella and Mrs Chute's son, Charles, then 11, who suffered burns to his shoulder. Mrs Chute, who is in constant pain from burns to her neck, arms, chest and stomach, and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, is seeking damages relating to her future loss of earnings and costs of treatments, estimated at £500,000. General damages of £70,000 for pain and suffering have already been agreed with Mrs St Aubyn's insurers, who admit liability. It is understood that the two women remain friends.

Mrs Chute had worked as a bilingual personal assistant to a wine merchant. She gave up her job when she had her first child, but was intending to return to work when the accident happened. Her injuries mean she will never work again, the court was told.

Mrs Chute told the court: "There is never a moment when I am free of pain. I have shooting pains which I describe as being like bee stings. Sometimes they are so severe they make me jump.

"I sleep very badly. If I am lucky I get about one or two hours' uninterrupted sleep." Each morning and evening, Mrs Chute removes pressure garments which she wears under her clothes and applies cream to her burns. "I can't get through a day unless I have a rest at about 4pm for an hour."

Household tasks such as cleaning, ironing and washing leave Mrs Chute exhausted. She employs a housekeeper to carry out the domestic duties that she once did herself. Mr Chute, who looks after Winchester College's land interests, helps to prepare vegetables for cooking.

The damages claim includes the costs of domestic help, the expense of adapting and making clothes to cover scars on her neck and the cost of alternative treatments, including reflexology and the Alexander Technique, which helps to relieve the pain.

Richard Methuen, for Mrs St Aubyn, suggested that Mrs Chute might be able to carry out translation work from home. But Anthony Rossi, Mrs Chute's consultant at Oddstock Hospital, said she would never be able to work again. "She has suffered a shattering thing. I don't feel she has any prospect of further employment."

The hearing was adjourned.

GILL ALLEN

Julia Chute yesterday. She has undergone ten operations and is in constant pain

Motorist fined for splashing walkers

By Edward Gorman

A MOTORIST who drove through a puddle, soaking an elderly pedestrian and his granddaughter, was fined £50 yesterday and had three penalty points put on his licence.

Brendan McNulty, 26, who drove through the puddle on Blackpool promenade, was also fined £420 by the town's magistrates for failing to produce his MoT test certificate and insurance documents, and had a further three points imposed for those offences.

McNulty, a hotel manager who has returned to Blackpool after living in Italy, was convicted in his absence in 1991. He had been charged with driving without due care and attention after a policewoman saw the puddle incident, which the court was told left the pedestrians in a state of shock. McNulty's solicitor, Chris Capaldi, said that he had not intended to splash them and had immediately offered them £30 to help with their dry-cleaning bills.

"That was the money he had on him at the time," Mr Capaldi said. "He also offered them a free night's accommodation at the hotel he managed at the time." Mr Capaldi said that McNulty was forced by another car to swerve.

McNulty said later that he was considering an appeal. "It was a genuine mistake and I pulled over to apologise. They seemed happy with my offer but the police got involved."

STARTS HERE

IN THE TIMES

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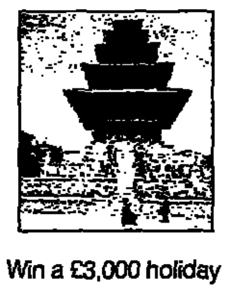
Bernard Levin, Caitlin Moran, Lynne Truss and Education

IN THE TIMES



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The **Magazine, Weekend Money, Car 95, 1015** for young *Times* readers and **Vision,** the 7-day TV and radio guide

Turner: leaving BBC

ITV lures lottery presenter for £1m

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

ITV has poached Anthea Turner from the BBC's *National Lottery Live* programme in a deal which will make her one of the highest-paid presenters on British television.

Turner signed a two-year contract yesterday with ITV, which is believed to be worth £1 million. She already earns an estimated £600,000 as a presenter on GMTV, the breakfast television station.

The deal will be a blow to the BBC. Although ratings for the National Lottery draw have been steadily declining from a peak of 18 million and critics have panned the programme, it attracts 12 million viewers and boosts audiences for the whole of the Saturday evening schedule.

Turner will leave when her contract expires in April. At ITV she will work on a prime-time show called *All You Need Is Love* and will then develop other programme ideas.

Carey criticises churches that block baptism

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE Archbishop of Canterbury criticised clergy who are reluctant to baptise the babies of parents who do not attend church.

Dr George Carey, speaking on a visit to the dioceses of Worcester and Lichfield last night, argued that the Church of England's mission was to the entire nation. He told clergy and laity "not to build too many barriers around church life".

Stepping into a theological minefield which is certain to be debated by the General Synod over the next few years, the Archbishop said: "I remain immensely grateful that the church to which my parents took me to be baptised did not turn them away on the grounds of their non-attendance on a Sunday. It was a generous church that received them and perceived the flickering faith they had."

Dr Carey warned against using the finer points of doctrine to close doors on people. "We must beware of introducing policies that sound theologically correct but which fail to encompass the spiritual aspirations of those whom we serve," he said.

Baptism has become an increasingly contentious issue in a church with deep divisions over questions of sexuality and churchmanship. Some evangelicals and traditionalists are concerned that millions of people in Britain are nominally Anglican and were baptised in their local parish church, but comparatively few attend church as adults, except possibly to get married.

Some clergy, largely from the evangelical wing of the Church, are reluctant to baptise babies where parents are not churchgoers, offering them a service of blessing or "thanksgiving after childbirth" instead.

In law, clergy have to baptise babies from within their parish but the Church accepts that baptism can be delayed to prepare the parents. Tony Higton, rector of Hawkwell in Essex and founder of Action for Biblical Witness to our Nation, said: "If the Archbishop gives the impression that anyone can come for baptism whether they have thought about it or not, that is unhelpful.

"This is a real problem. To baptise anyone without preparation is a gross misuse of the Sacrament. But to take a totally strict line is really lacking in being merciful. The happy solution is if a parent comes to faith. But if they don't, you have to weigh up whether you are misusing the Sacrament on the one hand or being exclusive on the other.

"You get a range of parishes that seem to baptise anything that moves, and some that don't even believe in infant baptism. If neither parent can make the promises, such as 'I turn to Christ', with integrity, we would encourage them to have a blessing or thanksgiving service."

British Legion scratches a new source of income

By Alexandra Frean
Media Correspondent

THE Royal British Legion is entering the charity scratchcard war by launching its own version of the game with a record top prize of £100,000.

The legion is aiming to raise £800,000 through the sale of four million £1 scratchcards for its Poppy Day appeal, which starts next Monday. The odds on the jackpot are one in a million.

Colonel Bobby Hanscomb, assistant general secretary of the Royal British Legion, whose patron is the Queen, said that the legion had to keep abreast of modern fundraising methods. "We are not finding it any easier to raise money from collecting tins or door to door appeals."

He added that he hoped that people would be attracted to the Poppy Day scratchcards by the fact that of every £1 spent 20p would go direct to the charity. Only 5.6 per cent of the proceeds of cards sold by Camelot, organisers of the National Lottery, goes direct to the National Lotteries Charities Board.

THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION
£1

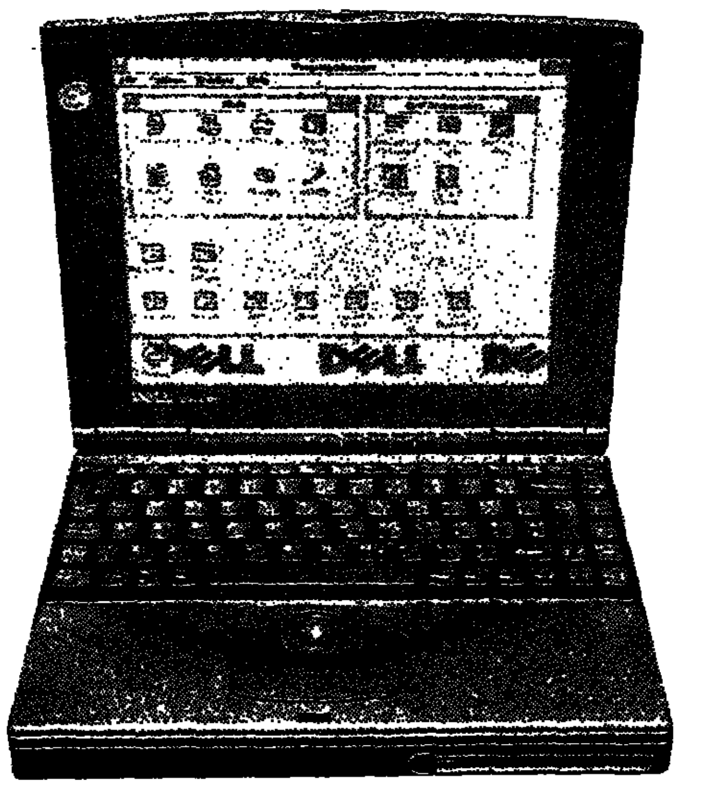
The legion card with a £100,000 jackpot

The launch of the Poppy Day scratchcard — the first to display a charity's name and logo on its face — comes amid growing concerns about the effects the National Lottery has had on charitable donations. The National Council of Voluntary Organisations has estimated that individual giving to charities could decline by £276 million this year as a result of competition from the National Lottery.

Lord Mancroft, whose Scratch-n-Win scratchcard organisation is running the Poppy Day game for the legion, said he expected Camelot to raise the top prize for its scratchcard game from £50,000 to £100,000. "They will do anything to squash us," he said. A spokeswoman from Camelot said: "We certainly see a top prize of £100,000 as very viable."

Sales of cards have exceeded all expectations since Camelot launched its first Instants game on March 21. Although Camelot's card sales have declined from a peak of £44 million a week, they are still running at between £26 million and £29 million a week. Total sales so far have topped £1 billion.

The legion's last Poppy Day appeal raised £15 million towards its overall income of £24 million. Last year the charity had to take £2.8 million from reserves because of cashflow problems.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CTOBER 19

Vauxhall expands company car deal to shop-floor staff

By Kevin Eason, Motoring Correspondent

VAUXHALL is offering more than 4,000 assembly line workers the chance to use a company car, taking Britain's most popular pay perk on to the shop floor.

Manual workers have been told that they can have a car every 18 months in a rental scheme that could cost them less than £100 a month. Vauxhall will pay road tax and insurance in a scheme that is part of an attempt to break deadlocked pay negotiations. The scheme would be opened initially to workers with ten years' service at the plants in Luton, Bedfordshire, and Ellesmere Port, Merseyside.

It would include all the company's models, from a £7,000 Corsa up to the £25,000 Omega executive model. The vehicles on offer are "nearly new", an industry term for models that have spent a short life as demonstrators in dealerships, as company cars or in daily rental fleets. Some could be just a few weeks old, with less than 6,000 miles on the clock. Workers would be free to choose any model.

Details of the deal have been put to unions after pay negotiations collapsed earlier this week. The company has offered 3.5 per cent on wages next year, a cost of living rise in 1997, plus a day's extra holiday. Vauxhall calculates that the total bill for the increase and its company car scheme would be about £12 million but unions have rejected the package and are threatening to ballot on a strike.

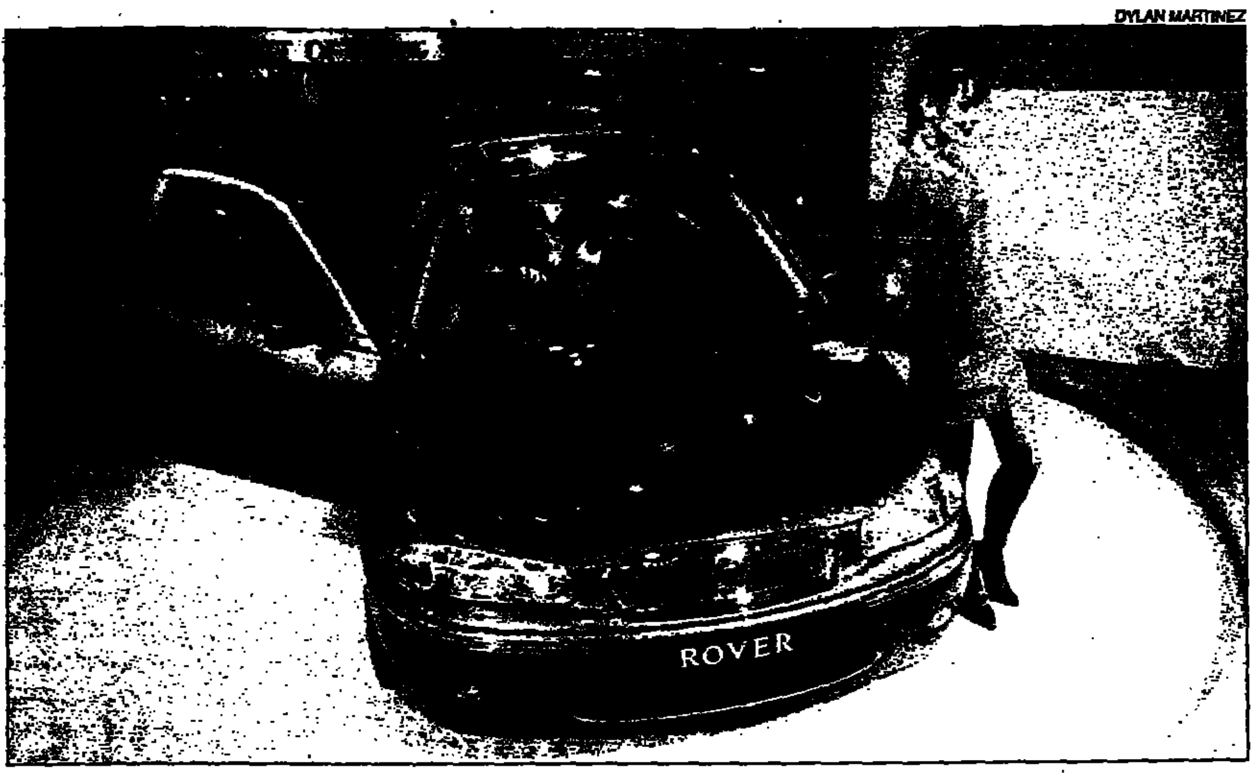
Bruce Warman, Vauxhall's director of personnel, said yesterday: "We think our workforce will like this scheme a lot. The deal is for ever and means that every 18 months or two years they can simply choose another model from the stock available."

Vauxhall has nearly 10,000 workers, and about 40 per cent would qualify immediately for the scheme, called the Nearly New Car Roll. A shopfloor worker would be able to rent a Corsa for £95 a month, a Cavalier for about £120 a month or an Omega for about £200 a month.

Similar cheap rental schemes are already available in many car companies, but they are traditionally limited to managers and executives. The Inland Revenue taxes such employee perks as a benefit in kind.

Although the cars are be officially classed as used, they are in mint condition. As with most carmakers, Vauxhall produces hundreds of models each year that are never sold as new. Dealers use them as demonstrators, while company management sometimes use them for only a few weeks. Daily rental companies use stock for a short time, then return it to manufacturers or send it to auctions.

DYLAN MARTINEZ



THE Rover 200 Hatchback, above, was the most eagerly awaited car launched on the first day of the London Motor Show, as almost the only model not previewed before the doors opened at the Earls Court Exhibition Centre (Kevin Eason writes).

Rover takes wraps off

The 200, which costs between £10,000 and £15,000, is the next step in Rover's move away from its 16-year dependence on Honda of Japan into a new role as a subsidiary of BMW of Germany. John Towers, Rover's chief executive, said the British company was in line for new investment that could create hundreds of jobs.

Each company is considering building a plant to make engines for Rover and BMW. A decision will be made this year. Mr Towers refused to confirm the potential investment but it is understood a new plant could cost £300 million and produce 500,000 engines a year.

Vauxhall is bidding for £150 million of investment to build the Corsa at Luton. Transferring from Spain might yield 1,000 jobs and double output at the plant.

Peugeot is considering making a successor to the 205 model at Ryton, Coventry, which has raised production from 1,600 to 2,250 cars a week and cut the workforce.

CAR 95

Motor Show special on Saturday

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- The top ten star cars
- Ten £300 in-car CD players to be won

Screening for breast cancer extended

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

ROUTINE screening for breast cancer is to be extended to older women in a study announced by the Government yesterday. Women aged 65-69 are to be included in the study in an attempt to cut the death toll from breast cancer, which claims 14,000 lives a year.

Baroness Cumberlege, a junior Health Minister, said the study would test the effectiveness of routine screening beyond its current age limits of 50 to 64. Older women are entitled to screening every three years but only those up to 64 are routinely invited.

Lady Cumberlege was giving the Government's response to the Commons Select Committee on Breast Cancer Services. In July it said that routine breast screening in women aged 50-69 reduced a woman's chances of dying over the ensuing 12 years by 25 to 30 per cent and said that the upper age limit for inclusion in the call-and-recall system should be extended beyond 64.

Shell rules against sea disposal of Brent Spar

By Nick Nuttall
Environment Correspondent

SHELL surprised the Government yesterday by ruling out any suggestion that the Brent Spar might yet be dumped at sea. The disclosure was made as independent assessors said a detailed study of the oil platform had shown it contained little or no toxic wastes.

Shell's estimates were ruled to have been more accurate than those of Greenpeace. In the summer, Shell embarrassed its government supporters by capitulating to a Greenpeace campaign to abandon plans for an Atlantic dumping.

The Government remains committed to disposal at sea for about 50 big platforms coming to the end of their lives. Yesterday, John Wybrew, Shell UK director of corporate affairs, said the practicalities of public opinion still meant that the company would go for other options, such as recycling or an artificial reef.

The study of Brent Spar by Det Norske Veritas, a non-profit assessor, found that Shell's estimates for oil, sludges, radioactivity and heavy metals were more accurate than Greenpeace's. The radioactivity was too low to be classified under international rules.

Ole-Andreas Hafnor, vice-president of DNV, said: "The total amount of hydrocarbons is estimated to be 75 to 100 tonnes, compared with Shell's estimate of 53 and Greenpeace's original estimate of 5,550 tonnes." Greenpeace later admitted there were flaws in the way volunteers sampled the Brent Spar's tanks during its summer occupation.

Man held in teacher killing case

Police investigating the killing of a teacher in her sitting room arrested a 47-year-old man yesterday. Two brothers, aged 14 and 15, have already been remanded in custody by magistrates in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, accused of her murder.

Eve Howells, 48, was found beaten to death on a sofa at her home in the Dalton district of Huddersfield on August 31.

Murder arrest

Police investigating the murder of Vikki Thompson, attacked while walking her dog near her home in Ascott-under-Wychwood, Oxfordshire, have rearrested a 20-year-old man who was questioned and freed last month.

Policeman shot

Police in Bristol have launched an inquiry after an officer was accidentally shot in the leg by a colleague as they put on equipment. The officer, who was hit in the thigh, underwent surgery at Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Epileptic robbed

A mother was robbed after she collapsed with an epileptic fit as she waited for her five-year-old daughter outside a primary school at Chadwell St Mary, Essex. A man stole a carrier bag containing two videos.

Falcons seized

Police in Bedfordshire have seized six rare Eleanor's falcons, believed to have been smuggled into Britain. They were found at a house in Sandy, a mile from the headquarters of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Jet lag strikes out baseball players

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

AMERICAN baseball fans bemoaning their teams' lack of success have been given a new explanation: jet lag.

Doctors have examined the records of 19 teams, based on the east and west coasts, which often have to take long flights between time zones with little time to recover.

The severity of jet lag and the time needed to recover depends on the number of time zones crossed and the direction of travel, according to Dr Lawrence Recht and Dr William Schwartz, of the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and Dr Robert Lew, of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Travelling from west to east is worse, requiring a longer recovery time, they say in Nature. So if jet lag is a factor, teams from the west coast should do significantly worse in away games that involve long flights. So it proved.

For the three seasons between 1991 and 1993, home teams won 56 per cent of their games — the well-known "home field" advantage. But home teams won 62.9 per cent of their games if the visitors had travelled east.

The home team could, on average, expect to score 1.24 more runs than usual when their opponents had just completed eastward travel.

If the visiting team had travelled westward, home advantage was only moderately increased, to 56.2 per cent.

Body and Mind, page 18

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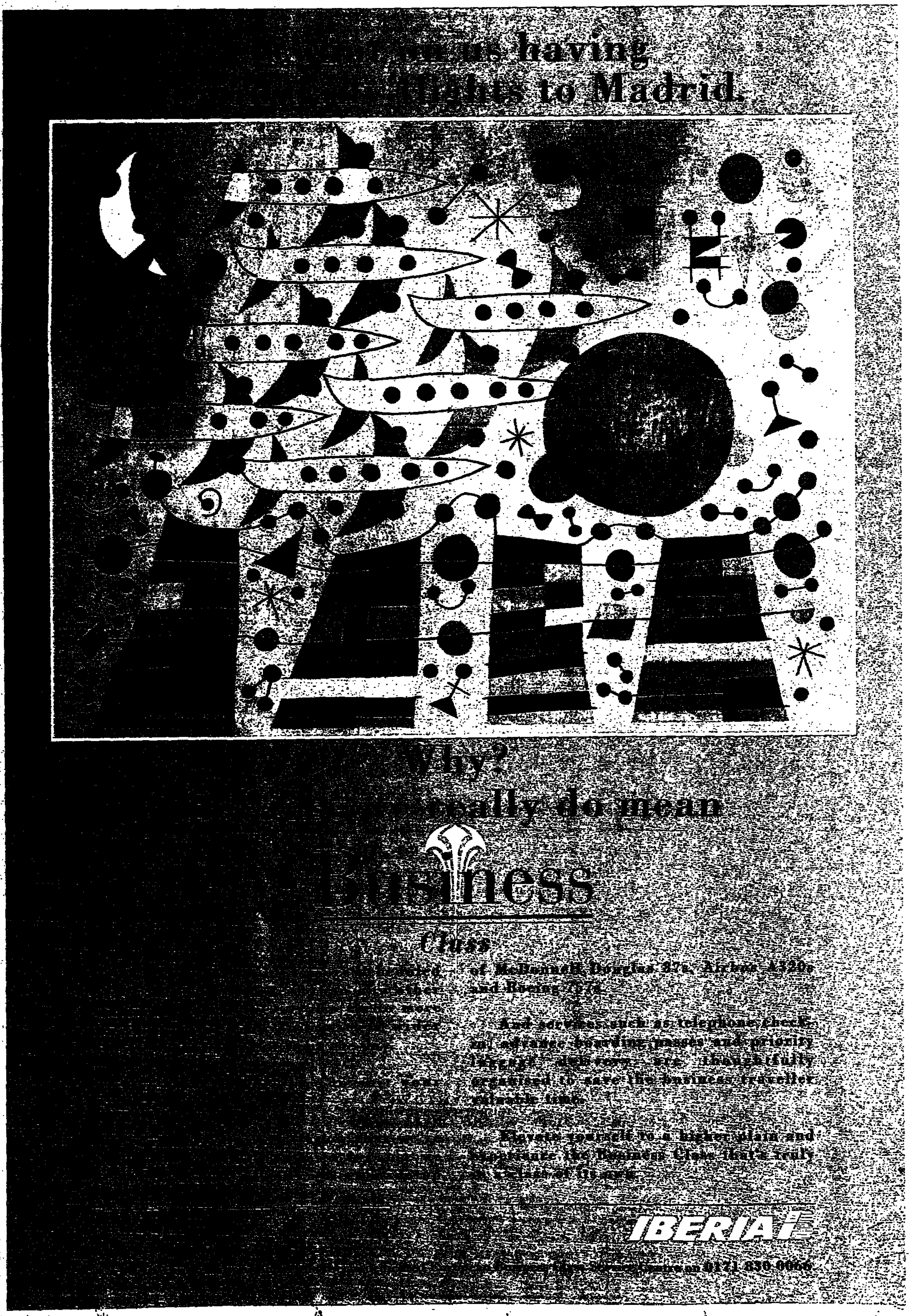
The military rank of Umrao Singh (report and photograph, October 16) is that of supender, not subahdar.

Tesco has asked us to make clear that the company does not make donations to political parties (Media and Marketing, October 17).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West's daughter tells of childhood sex abuse in cellar

By Bill Frost and Richard Duce

ONE of Frederick West's daughters told yesterday how she was sexually abused from the age of eight by him and her stepmother, Rosemary West, in the cellar of their Cromwell Street home.

Winchester Crown Court was told that the abuse continued until Anne Marie Davis ran away from the house in Gloucester when she was 15. Mrs Davis, now 31, was born to Frederick West and his first wife, Rena Costello. The remains of Ms Costello were discovered buried in a field 15 miles outside Gloucester.

Mrs Davis moved to Cromwell Street with her father and stepmother in 1972, when she was eight. Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, asked her if she remembered her first sexual experience. "Yes, I do," Mrs Davis said, her voice faltering. "How old were you?" Mr Leveson asked. "I was eight." "Who was involved?" "My stepmother and my father."

Mrs Davis described being taken downstairs to the cellar: "My father was in front, I was in the middle, my stepmother was behind. I was very frightened. I then had my clothes removed."

Asked who did this, Mrs Davis, in tears, replied: "Rosemary did. I was crying and just asking 'What is going on, what is happening?' "

At this point Mrs Davis became extremely upset, and said: "I was told that I should be very grateful and be lucky that I had such caring parents that thought of me, and they were going to help me to make sure that when I got married I would be able to satisfy my husband and keep my husband. I was led to believe that all loving parents behaved in the same way."

Mrs Davis said that during the sexual attack Rosemary West was holding her down and "laughing and sort of smirking".

"It hurt so much I just wished that I was dead. I felt I shouldn't be so ungrateful. They were doing this to help me." Afterwards she was instructed by the Wests to tell no one of what had happened.

Mrs Davis said she was subjected to further violent sexual attacks by her father and stepmother. She remembered her father "coming home from work and he had made a metal object. I think it was shaped like a U with two protruding handles.

"I felt unnerved, I don't know why. He said he had brought it as a toy for the children. The next time I saw it, my stepmother Rosemary asked me to go down into the basement. I was very apprehensive after the experience I recounted earlier.

"This object was against the wall. I felt frightened because my dad wasn't there. I was told to undress. I didn't want to but Rose was getting somewhat annoyed.

"I think I was strapped to the instrument. I was frightened. I was completely naked. I was gagged. Rose started hitting me with her fists and hands, and with a belt, swearing at me, calling me names.

ROSEMARY WEST TRIAL

"Then I remember my father being there. He had his work overalls on. I remember looking at my dad, pleading with him with my eyes. My father had sexual intercourse with me. Then he went; I presume it was his lunch hour."

Asked how the incident ended, she claimed: "Rosemary sexually abused me." Later she was given a salt-water bath which Rosemary told her would sting but make her feel better. "She made me a cup of tea," Mrs Davis said. Looking at her stepmother sitting in the dock, she added: "She was so kind to me."

Mrs Davis claimed that when she was nine, her father would tell her stepmother to make sure bruises did not show. "It had to be on my torso and not my face. To hide any marks or bruises her parents would give her a note asking for her to be excused from games. Once, unknown to her, a teacher noticed bruising and she returned home to find a lady from "the welfare" had called on Rosemary West. "I was sent off to get changed . . . I remember the lady went and I had the biggest hiding of my life."

Mrs Davis also told the court that her father and stepmother doted on each other. "Rosemary had so much love for my dad, she would have done anything for him."

Mrs Davis recalled life at 25 Midland Road, Gloucester, where she had lived with her older sister Charmaine, whose remains were later found beneath the kitchen of the ground-floor flat.

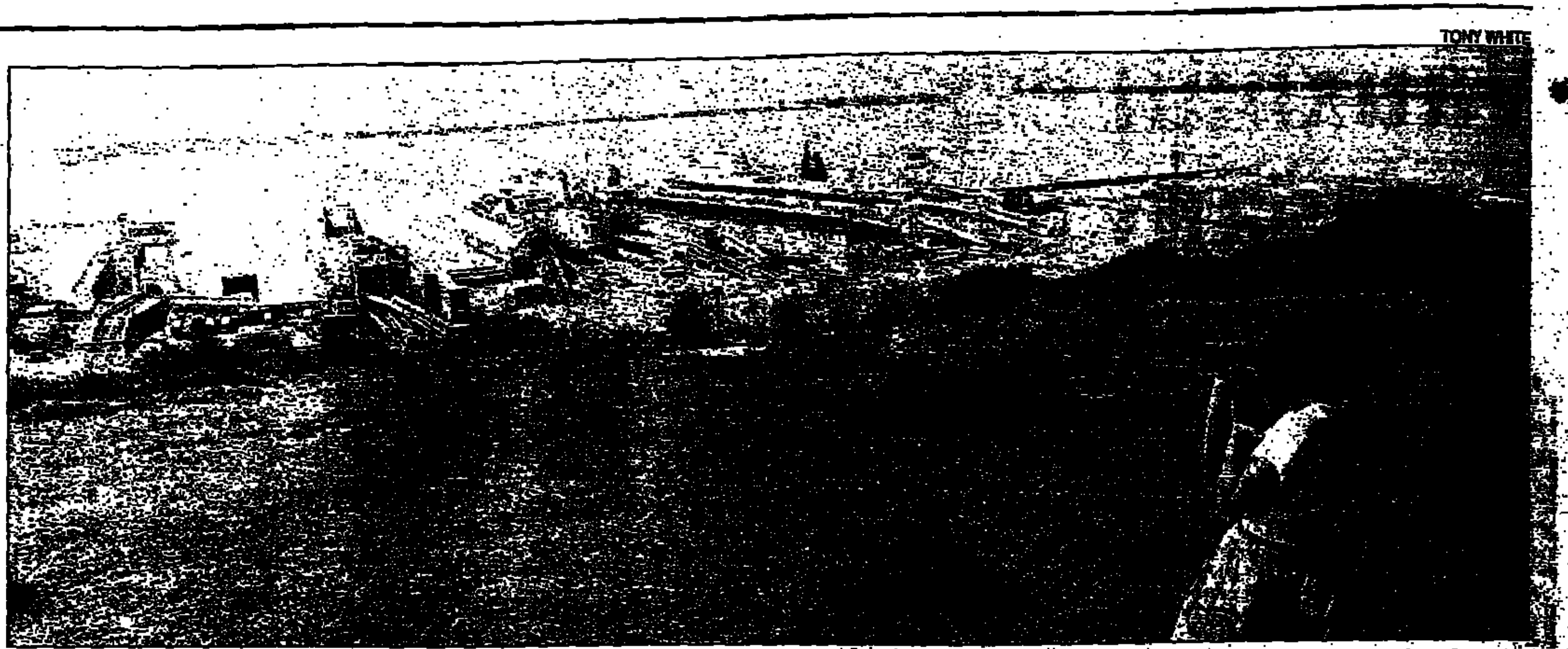
Asked how she had got on with her stepmother at Midland Road, Mrs Davis said: "At first I used to call my stepmother Rose and my Dad smacked me one time. He said she was my mum and I was to call her mum. I never objected to anything. Charmaine used to aggravate Rosemary and try to upset her, antagonise her."

Asked how her stepmother reacted to Charmaine's behaviour, Mrs Davis said: "She used to smack us and tell us off, and Charmaine would never cry. I used to cry and plead with Charmaine to cry and show some emotion. But she wouldn't. She felt like if she cried she was giving in. I remember that one time Charmaine was tied to the bed."

Charmaine would talk to her about how her real mother would come and take her away one day. "I came home from school one afternoon and Charmaine wasn't at the house. I asked Rose where Charmaine was and she said her mum had come to take her.

"I didn't feel or seem concerned. I knew that's what Charmaine would have wanted. I knew that the smacks and hittings would stop now and that my sister was happy. She was where she wanted to be."

Rosemary West has denied murdering nine girls and a young woman, among them her own daughter Heather. The trial was adjourned until today, when members of the jury will visit the house in Cromwell Street.



TONY WHITE

Above the white cliffs: a hilltop view of the port facing privatisation. The mayor says it "should and must always remain in British hands"

Burghers of Calais fight for Dover's continental gateway

By Christine Buckley and Tim Jones

FRENCH businessmen in Calais are pressing ahead with plans to bid for a controlling interest in the port of Dover to stop it from falling into "hostile hands".

They are prepared to pay up to £150 million for their historic rival, as a shield against further erosion of business on the crucial cross-Channel ferry route that provides 80 per cent of the French port's trade.

The Government is due to announce plans shortly to privatise Dover port. The French fear it could be bought by an operator who wanted to diversify more into cruise shipping, and wind down the ferry business in the face of tough competition from Eurotunnel.

Dover and Calais lie within sight of each other across 22 miles of often stormy sea. A business merger makes sense to City analysts, but there is strong opposition from the English side. The French would gain a huge marketing advantage by controlling a shipping route. One London analyst said: "Eurotunnel hasn't got sufficient capacity to handle all cross-Channel traffic and there will always be ferry operators. Sealing a route would give Calais a greater ability to control prices."

P & O, the ferry company, is also keen to bid for Dover. P & O pays about £12 million a year in taxes to the port. Although these are being reduced in the face of Eurotunnel competition, they are still a significant part of the company's operating costs. P & O already owns Larne port in Northern Ireland.

In Dover, a recent opinion poll showed that 90 per cent of the 30,000 population opposed the expected French bid, 91 per cent of the 600 port employees were opposed to privatisation, and 75 per cent of staff said job security would be worsened.

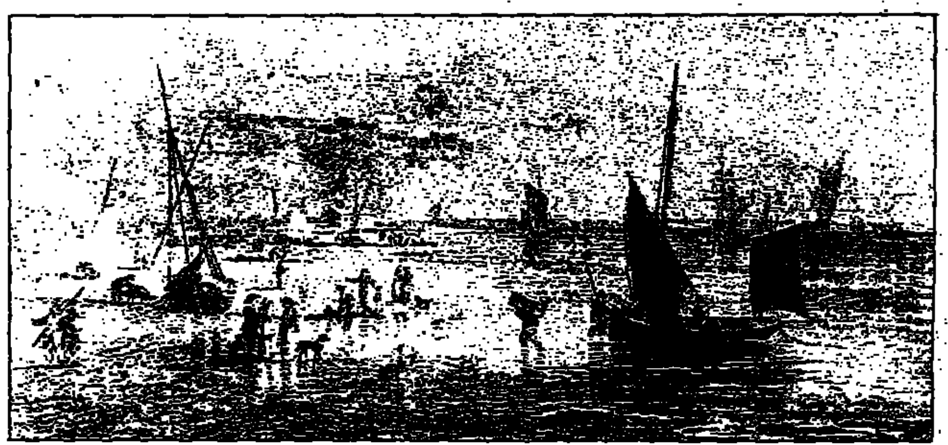
The thought of the French flag flying over the old gateway to England has angered James Hood, the Mayor of Dover, who has written to Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, in her capacity as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, to ask her to intervene.

Mr Hood, a welder at the harbour, said that he found it difficult to conceal his anger. He said: "I represent a Labour-controlled council which is opposed on principal to the harbour being privatised. But the thought that it could be run and controlled by the French is hard for a British person to take. It is an historic port which epitomises Britain and its spirit. It should and must always remain in British hands."

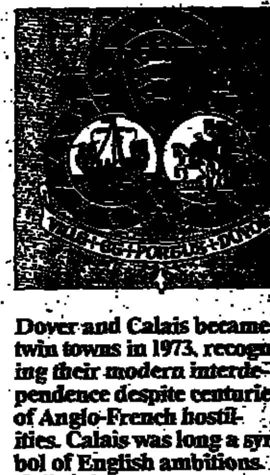
Gerard Barron, spokesman for the Calais chamber of commerce, said yesterday that Calais wanted a controlling interest in Dover to prevent it falling into "hostile hands". He said: "We would be disappointed if the people of Dover opposed our plans. It makes good sense and it is good business for both ports to work more closely together."

The Government is determined to go ahead with privatisation as a means of revitalising the port. Last year's pre-tax profits showed a heavy blow from discounting on port taxes charged to the ferry companies and from job reductions, tumbling from £11.4 million in 1993 to £5 million. Sales slipped from £51.3 million in 1993 to £45 million last year. In the first nine months of this year, Dover dealt with 13.8 million passengers compared with 15 million for the same period last year.

Such gloom make a price of £150 million for the port seem high. More modest City estimates range between £75 million and £100 million — the latter based on the performance of Mersey Docks.

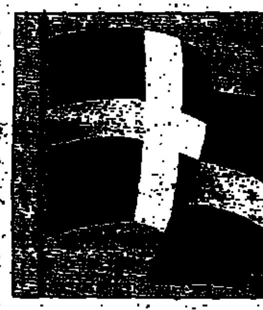


Dover in 1816, a year after French ambitions met their Waterloo



Dover and Calais became twin towns in 1973, recognising their modern interdependence despite centuries of Anglo-French hostilities. Calais was long a symbol of English ambitions. Mary Tudor, who died in 1558 — the year that the French recaptured the port — said: "When I am dead and opened you shall find Calais lying in my heart."

Richard Coeur de Lion departed from Dover on the Third Crusade, and in 1422 Henry V was brought back through Dover after his death in France. More recently, Dover payed a vital part in the evacuation of troops from Dunkirk during the Second World War. Dover, whose coat of arms is shown above, has a population of 30,000. Calais, whose flag is below, has 100,000. Both towns are controlled by socialist councils, although Calais has a communist mayor.



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Whitehall admits smear campaign against Casement

By Nigel Williamson, Whitehall Correspondent

WHITEHALL admitted yesterday that it used the homosexuality of the Irish nationalist Sir Roger Casement to discredit a campaign intended to save him from being hanged for treason.

The Home Office has released papers showing that Casement, who was hanged at Pentonville in August 1916 because of his attempts to recruit German aid for Irish independence, was the victim of a well-orchestrated "dirty tricks" campaign that had nothing to do with the charges against him.

Casement was a voracious homosexual who recorded his exploits in diaries. Documents made available at the Public Record Office in Kew yesterday show how government officials circulated them to journalists, politicians and other opinion formers who might have supported pleas for clemency.

The papers show how the diaries were given to the American ambassador in London in an attempt to diminish American-Irish support for the campaign to commute Casement's sentence.

The Cabinet was told on July 19, 1916, when it was considering the clemency plea that Casement "had for years been addicted to the grossest sodomitical practices". A paper from Sir Edward Troup, a Home Office official, made clear the intention of using Casement's homosexuality to blacken his name.

As the Cabinet considered pleas from W.B. Yeats, John Masefield and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle among others, ministers were told that if Casement were executed "the knowledge of his immoral character, which is probably by this time fairly widespread in Ireland, will alienate sympathy and prevent his being treated as a martyr". Armed with this reassurance, clemency pleas were rejected.

Successive governments have since denied the existence of Casement's diaries, let alone that they had been used in a propaganda campaign. The diaries were finally made available to historians in 1959 and to the public last year.

The documents also show how the press — mostly the *Daily Express* — was used to condemn Casement as a homosexual. The Home Office carefully recorded every denouncement of Casement as "a moral degenerate", although there it is not clear at what level the campaign was authorised. A total of 14 documents have been withheld for at least another ten years on national security grounds.

The papers suggest that the diaries were supplied to Whitehall by the Special Branch, which obtained them in a raid on Casement's London home. The Home Office sought advice from Harley Street doctors on Casement's "sexual perversion" and even the Archbishop of Canterbury was consulted. The Archbishop paid tribute to Casement's "capacity, his enthusiasm and his apparent straightforwardness" but refused to comment on his homosexuality or to back the plea for clemency.

It is clear that Casement's homosexuality had nothing to do with the case against him. In a paper to the Cabinet, Sir Ernley Blackwell, an under-secretary at the Home Office, said: "It really has no relation to the actual offence with which he is charged."

Casement: diaries seized in Special Branch raid

'Feel-good' factor eludes families

By Ian Murray

THERE is no sign of a "feel-good" factor in the latest set of family-spending figures published today by the Government. The average household is spending £5 more a week than a year ago but most of that increase is down to inflation.

Pay increases have pushed up the average gross household income by £16 a week, but after tax and inflation the average family has only £3 more to spend on luxuries than it did a year ago.

People spend most on food, as they have done ever since the annual review of family spending began in 1957. However, the gap between the amount spent on food and that spent on housing has narrowed from 21.2 per cent in 1960 to 1.4 per cent.

The average household spends 16 per cent on leisure goods and services. Tobacco, is down to just 2 per cent of average spending from 6 per cent in 1960, but the average drinks bills is up from 3.2 per cent to 4.3 per cent of income.

The average income of the poorest 20 per cent of households is £79 a week compared with £853.70 a week of the highest-earning 20 per cent.

□ *Family Spending* (Stationery Office, £34.95)

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At Lands' End, the Direct Merchants from America, we understand your scepticism. Millions of our most devoted customers felt the same way, once...

Like you, a lot of Americans had their doubts.

Could we really deliver clothing so well made – at prices so fair – with service as friendly as we promised?

Well, millions and millions of customers later, the answer is "yes." And now that we've been in the UK for over five years, a lot of sceptics on *this* side of the pond are true believers, too.

One reason is our merchandise. As you can see from the examples here, we feature tasteful clothing in the classic American style.

And we never stop working to make them better.

If it's better for you, it's better for us.

Year after year, we keep going back, adding features and construction details others have taken out.

Just this year, we introduced a new version of our cotton Mesh Shirt – a staple in our catalogue since 1983. But our new version has *eight* major improvements.

We never, ever reduce the quality of a product to make it cheaper.

Where we come from – the good, hardworking farm country of Dodgeville, Wisconsin – folks take pride in doing an honest day's work. And we expect our products to do the same.

Of course, when Lands' End first arrived in the UK, it took some getting used to. In our advertisements and catalogues, we wrote *catalog*, and *color* and *favorite* – the way we do in the States.

But now, we're well established in the UK. With a thriving home-from-home in Oakham, Rutland. And we're letting our Oakhamites talk their way.

Which is why we now spell catalogue with a *ue*.

Are we finicky? You have no idea.

As Direct Merchants, we always go straight to the manufacturers for our goods.

So we can work closely with them on improving our products.

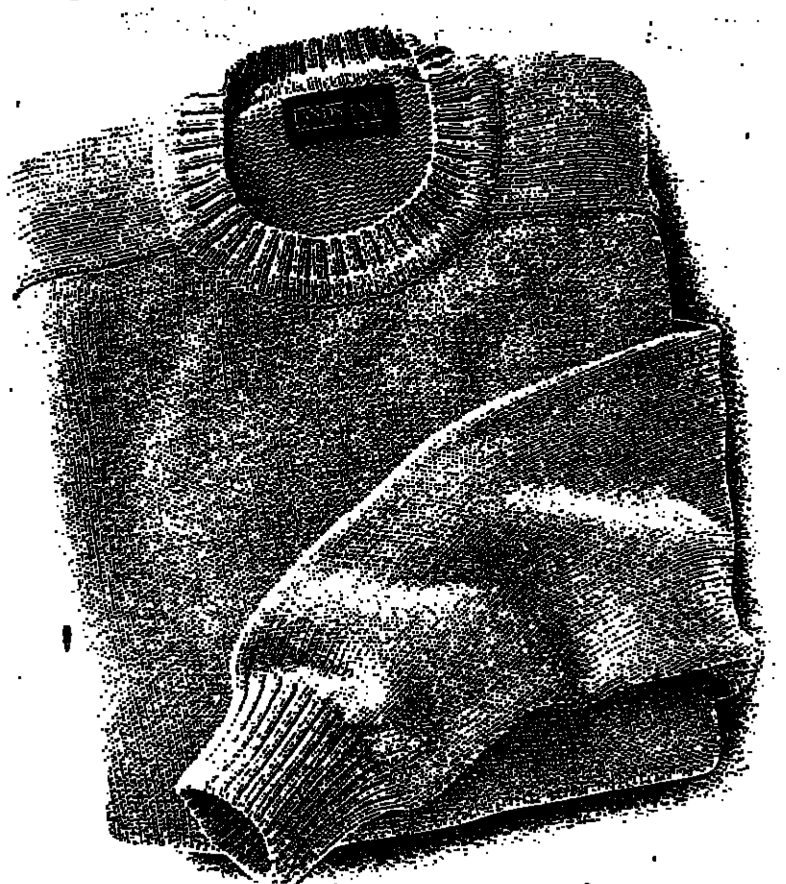
And then, at the end of the day, we price our products fairly and honestly.

You can call us any time–24 hours a day–and talk to a friendly, well-trained British Operator. In the comfort and convenience of your home.

We'll deliver a few days later. (It will take just a little longer for something monogrammed or hemmed.)

Nicest of all, you can't go wrong. If you don't like something, return it. It's GUARANTEED. (And that's in addition to your statutory rights.)

So, call or write for our free catalogue. Who knows? We may make a believer of you, too.



Our Drifter Sweater is an American classic. (Know another classic that's only £24.50?)

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It's yarn-dyed for superb colour. And knitted by the world's best knitters–the British. Each piece–front, back and sleeves–is knitted separately to the body's contours, then linked together for a superb fit. (A sweater that's only cut-and-sewn to size cannot fit as nicely.)

One result is, the Drifter keeps its shape through repeated washings.

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Men's: 06674AA4
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Sizes: M, L, XL
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Our stonewashed Square Riggers are hardworking – and authentic.

These days, most jeans bear only a slight resemblance to the sturdy American jeans of yesteryear. They're "distressed," or skintight, or decked out with gimmicks.

Not our Square Riggers.™ Which are cut from yarn-dyed, pure cotton denim. In the rugged, 14 ¾ oz. weight that generations of cowboys and farmers swore by.

The only difference is, we stonewash ours. So there's hardly any shrinkage; no stiffness or scratchiness. They're like well-worn favourites right out of the package.

There's a rust-proof zipper and rivets; x-tacked seams on the rear pockets for strength; double-stitched side seams. Even a watch pocket.

How many pairs would you like?

Stonewashed Square Riggers

Men's: 33703AA4
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£25 (plus £2.95 packing and delivery)
Colours: Antique Indigo, Black, Charcoal, Indigo and Tan
Sizes: Waist 30-44 even, plus 31, 33, 35 and 37
Women's: 18317AA2
100% cotton denim
£25 (plus £2.95 packing and delivery)
Colours: Antique Indigo, Black, Indigo and Loden
Sizes: USA even sizing 4-16 (ask Operator for conversion)
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Our Interlochen Knit Shirt won't go out of date or out of shape.

If we came back in 100 years, it wouldn't surprise us to see our Interlochen™ still being happily worn by our customers.

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We use only strong, fine long-staple cotton, combed to coax out its natural softness. And the interlock knit is rich, cushiony but breathable.

Unlike some interlock polos, ours isn't stretched in the finishing. So, it resists shrinkage later on.

There's jersey tape in the neck, to be smoother against your skin. A neatly finished placket. Side vents to prevent gapping. A collar that won't curl.

The style is so versatile, you can wear it in all kinds of situations – and it'll fit right in!

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Consultant disciplined for protest to The Times

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Correspondent

A HOSPITAL consultant has been disciplined by an NHS trust after writing to *The Times* about the shortage of intensive care beds.

Dr Bob Bown, consultant physician at Frimley Park Hospital NHS Trust, Camberley, Surrey, has lost his appeal against a formal warning which was issued over the letter. The British Medical Association described the move as an outrage and said that it infringed doctors' rights, enshrined in their terms of service, to raise matters of public concern.

Dr Bown said in his letter last April that the lack of intensive care beds in the South of England was having "a gravely deleterious knock-on effect on other patients". He cited the case of a man admitted to Frimley Park with liver failure who had been transferred 200 miles to Leeds because no closer intensive care bed was available.

He said his registrar had spent four hours on the phone trying to find a bed for the man, during which he was "not available to cope with our other seriously ill patients". He added: "Not surprisingly, we are now having great difficulty recruiting junior staff."

Dr Bown wrote his letter a few weeks after another case, which received wide publicity, in which a patient with head injuries was transferred by helicopter from Kent to Leeds after no intensive care bed could be found.

James Johnson, chairman of the BMA consultants' committee, said: "The trust's action in disciplining this consultant is an outrage that cannot go unchallenged. The consultant did not intend his criticism to be directly related to Frimley Park but was talking about the lack of intensive care facilities in his region in the context of a case at another hospital in the South East.

"I find it appalling in today's NHS that any management can attempt to prevent a doctor expressing legitimate concerns in this way."

Andrew Morris, chief executive of Frimley Park, said the case was not about gagging doctors but about accuracy. Dr Bown's letter in *The Times* had attracted large-scale attention from the media because it was wrongly assumed that Frimley Park's services were inadequate.

"People have a right to speak to the press but they have got to be accurate," Mr Morris said. "We felt his letter misrepresented the situation at Frimley Park.

"We had a spare intensive care bed at the time but we don't do liver transplants, so the patient had to be transferred elsewhere. We have never had problems with medical staffing."

Top: the cottage before restoration and after, with the Pickavants. Above: demolition in progress yesterday

Two arrested as their 18th century home is bulldozed

By A Staff Reporter

TWO men were arrested yesterday after council workers bulldozed an 18th century cottage during a dawn raid by planning officers and riot police.

The demolition came at the end of a three-year planning row in which William Pickavant, 67, a former soldier, and his son Lester, 33, vowed to lie in the path of the bulldozers rather than watch the demolition of the £86,000 cottage they had spent four years restoring.

The cottage, which has stood outside the village of Wymeswold, Leicestershire, for more than 200 years, was renovated four years ago. But this morning, acting under planning laws, officers from Charnwood Borough Council supervised its demolition.

The council ruled that the detached building should not have been converted to a cottage because it was not granted planning permission. The Pickavants claimed they did not need permission because they were merely restoring a house which had been on the land for centuries.

William Pickavant, who lives next door to the cottage, fought the council's decision at Leicester Crown Court in February but lost. He was convicted of ignoring a council notice to remove the cottage and was fined £500 pounds and ordered to pay £500 costs. The Recorder in the case, Christopher Butler, described him as "foolish and stubborn".

The Pickavants were being held at Loughborough police station for conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace. Lester, who lived in the cottage with his girlfriend, was arrested after claims that he threatened to kill the council's chief executive, Stephen Peatfield, who oversaw the demolition. William Pickavant must pay the cost, believed to be about £12,000.

A council spokesman said: "The Pickavants misled the council by claiming that the building would be a barn and only admitted their intentions once building work was well under way."

Hawk turns great tit into weight watcher

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

THE fall and rise of the sparrowhawk in English woodlands has been mirrored by the waistline of the birds on which they feed.

When sparrowhawks were in decline in the 1960s as a result of poisoning by pesticides, great tits grew fat. No longer needing to be nimble enough to escape predators, they could afford to fill up with food and give themselves a better chance of surviving the winter.

But when the sparrowhawks began to return in the 1970s, the great tits had to modify their strategy, scientists from the Department of Zoology at Oxford University and the British Trust for Ornithology report in *Nature*. They now had to balance the danger of being caught against the risk of starving.

Between 1970 and 1980, the weight of great tits caught at Wytham Woods in Oxfordshire decreased by almost a gram from an average of 18 grams. The scientists found that the change was not due to the availability of food.

Beak fossil casts doubt on mother of all birds

By Our Science Editor

THE oldest beak in the world may force scientists to reconsider how birds evolved. A fossil bird 140 million years old found in northeast China is the oldest to possess a beak, and is almost as old as the supposed ancestor of all birds, *Archaeopteryx*.

The bird, *Confuciosornis sanctus*, was about the size of a pigeon and had claws, suggesting that it lived in trees. But while *Archaeopteryx* had toothy reptilian jaws, the new bird had a true beak and feathers similar to modern birds. This suggests, according to a team from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the universities of Kansas and North Carolina, reporting in *Nature*, that it was considerably more advanced than *Archaeopteryx*. That is a puzzle, because the two birds were near-contemporaries.

The team says that either birds evolved rapidly from *Archaeopteryx* or there was an undiscovered group that evolved even earlier, meaning that *Archaeopteryx* was not the ancestor of birds.

Leading article, page 21

New airline offers flights for peanuts

By Harvey Elliott, Travel Correspondent

BRITAIN'S first cut-price "peanut airline" is to begin services from Luton to Glasgow next month with single fares from £29.

EasyJet, created by a Greek shipping millionaire, wants to make flying in Britain "as affordable as a pair of jeans". It plans to introduce cut-price European services next year.

Prices for the thrice-daily flights will start at £29. When a set number is sold, prices will rise to £39, £49 and eventually £59 just before take-off. The cheapest return fare at present on the route — singles are not generally available — costs £74 and has a number of conditions.

Fares are non-refundable, which should end the airline's need to overbook. No tickets will be issued: seats will be sold direct to passengers by telephone or via the Internet.

EasyJet is based on "peanut airlines" in the United States, so-called because the only in-flight extras are peanuts. They have been able to undercut established operators by reducing their own costs.

Stelios Haji-Ioannou, the founder of EasyJet, said: "There will be frills available on our flights but they will be for sale. We will have a kiosk on board where papers, drinks and sweets can be bought. But apart from that all we will offer is the lowest possible fare.

"If a particular flight is not selling well we may offer all the seats at £29, but increase the price to a maximum of £59 single if the demand is huge." EasyJet has negotiated a 50 per cent discount on the train fare from Luton to London.

British Midland said yesterday that it was likely to introduce a low-cost package. British Airways, however, said it would not match the EasyJet fares. "We feel we already can attract the whole market with a range of fares catering for everyone," it said.

Travel, pages 40, 41

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European Court ruling

Employers support end of positive sex discrimination

By Lin Jenkins

TALENTED women should be appointed on merit rather than through positive discrimination, employers said yesterday after quota schemes were rendered illegal by the European Court of Justice.

British companies said that the ruling was an endorsement of their approach to encouraging greater equality through promoting capable candidates whatever their sex.

Eleven million women in Britain now work, an increase of 1.5 million in a decade — twice the rate of the rise in male employment. Soon more women than men will work but a study by the Equal Opportunities Commission suggests that not until 2028 will they be paid the same as men.

Opportunity 2000, an initiative by Business in the Community which aims to improve women's employment prospects, sets no specific numerical target but hopes that by the turn of the century improvements will have been made in promoting women. Pat Corcoran, director of operations, said: "The confusion comes from the difference between the words quota and target. Many of our members have targets, which are expected outcomes of their equal opportunity policy rather than a specific figure that they have to meet.

"Companies use targets to measure how effective their policies are in retaining women in the workforce and allowing them to reach their full potential."

Under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, setting quotas and positive discrimination is banned, although firms are allowed to encourage more women to qualify for jobs where their numbers are low. The case taken before the European Court of Human Rights by a German, who challenged a policy of promoting a woman in preference to a man where they had the same qualifications, would have been outlawed under British legislation.

Opportunity 2000 has 287 signatories, including British Airways which has just launched a recruitment drive aimed at making the ratio of male to female pilots more closely resemble their customer profile. Of the 3,000 pilots only 50 are women and Barbara Harmer, 39, a former hairdresser, is the only woman to have flown Concorde. Advertisements to attract trainee pilots have been placed where young women might see them, including in *Cosmopolitan*. The airline said its policy did not amount to positive discrimination and that efforts were being made to attract applications from a broad range of candidates. "Once that has happened we will pick the best people."

Shell UK, another of the Opportunity 2000 employers, acknowledges recruiting more men than women. Efforts to take on more women are hampered by the fact that most science graduates are men.

At Lloyds Bank, Kim Foster, the Opportunity 2000 manager, said it was good business sense to encourage all employees to develop their skills. "No one wants to feel they have been promoted just because of their gender. It is condescending to all talented men and women to imply that."

Barclays Bank runs women-only courses to improve their career skills. "We do not operate positive discrimination, but these courses enable women to compete on a level playing field," Jane Vidler, a spokeswoman, said.

Janet Daley, page 20

SIMON WALKER

Michael Portillo being interviewed in his office yesterday. He told *The Times* that he was not anti-Europe, just anti-federalist

Portillo declares his globalist beliefs

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

MICHAEL PORTILLO robustly defended his views on Europe yesterday and appeared unmoved by reports that he was to be asked to restrain his language in any future speech about European defence.

A group of pro-Europe Tory MPs met Malcolm Rifkind on Tuesday evening and had the impression that the Foreign Secretary would try to restrain Mr Portillo from deploying the type of language he used in his controversial speech at the Conservative conference in Blackpool last week.

In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Portillo said he had had no indication that Mr Rifkind, his predecessor at the Ministry of Defence, was intending to restrict his statements on Europe.

The Defence Secretary insisted that he was not anti-Europe, just anti-federalist. "I think the speech appealed to a very large number of people and I resent the suggestion that I had erected an Aunt Sally. There is a serious debate about European integration and I wanted to make the anti-federalist case robustly.

"I think people express themselves differently in different places. My job at the party conference is to inspire the Conservatives and to attract new voters to the Conservative Party and this speech will have had both effects."

Since the party speech, Mr Portillo has spent some time reassuring people, in the Defence Ministry and outside, that his perceived anti-Europe position — strongly criticised by Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission — did not in any sense, other than in his speech's choice of words, clash with agreed government policy.

He said: "What I am is an anti-federalist, I'm not an anti-European, still less am I a xenophobe. I'm from a multi-ethnic European background. I'm able to understand a number of European languages and speak one or two of them myself. I believe in co-operation with other nations and I see myself as a globalist.

"In other words I believe that our development in the European Union, for instance on free trade, should be seen only as a stepping stone to wider arrangements for free trade in the world, because if free trade is good for Europe, it must be good for wider groups of nations as well. Malcolm Rifkind and I are at one there. So all that puts me rather a long way from the pigeon-hole description of being anti-European."

He gave his full support to the government approach in developing a strong European pillar in Nato through the Western European Union but he could not envisage any situation where a conflict involving the integrity of an alliance member would not involve the Americans.

"I believe that European security will, for as long as anyone can foresee, rest on an Atlantic alliance."

While by instinct an Atlanticist, he added: "It's worth remembering that the Atlantic Alliance, Nato, contains two North American countries and 14 European countries and that that ratio is going to continue moving towards a European bias (when Nato takes in new members from eastern Europe).

"To talk about an Atlantic Alliance is not to say something that minimises the European contribution but it is to say that it is the integration of American and European nations in the security of Europe that is important … indeed fundamental."

Rented US fighter jets may steal Tornado role

A SCHEME to lease American F16 aircraft instead of upgrading RAF Tornado F3 air defence planes is being seriously considered, Michael Portillo confirmed yesterday (*Michael Evans writes*). He denied that the plan would call into question Britain's participation in the four-nation Eurofighter programme.

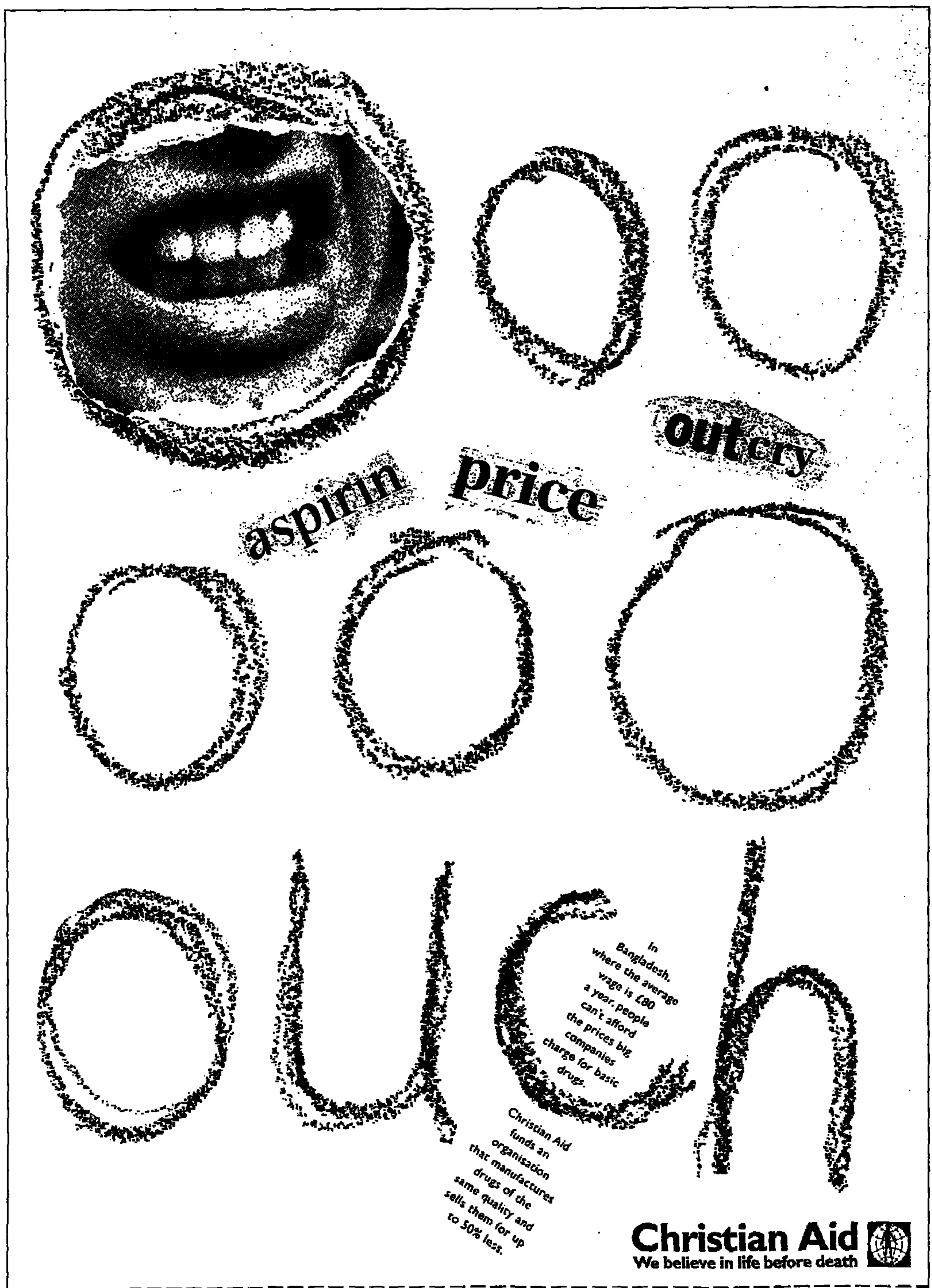
The Defence Secretary said he was "100 per cent" behind Eurofighter, although he admitted that while he was Chief Secretary to the Treasury he had been sceptical about the programme.

"The questions that were raised in my mind about Eurofighter have been resolved," Mr Portillo said. "I now believe it to be a highly capable and very competitive aircraft." Leasing — "not buying" — F16s was a short-term option to fill the gap until Eurofighter came into service in 2002.

Mr Portillo said that he had not made up his mind whether to lease F16s or upgrade the Tornado, unofficially estimated to cost about £115 million. "The debate simply is that the Tornado was not designed as a high-performance fighter. But can you, by changing its weaponry and possibly its systems, adapt it to the roles that we now foresee for our fighter aircraft, or would you do better to lease admittedly an old aircraft, but one that is designed as a fighter?

"Tornado was mainly conceived of as intercepting incoming bombing aircraft from the Soviet Union. The new envisaged role is likely to be accompanying ground-attack aircraft in some theatre of operation, probably distant from the UK," he said.

SAS message, page 1
Portillo book, page 39



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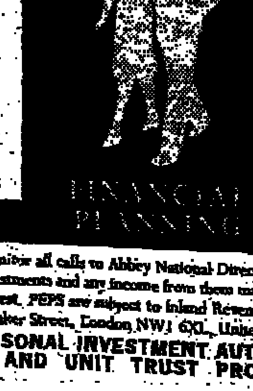

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Howard's survival depends on silence of his colleagues

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Michael Howard is in serious political trouble because he has made an enemy of the person who is in a position to embarass him most. But his survival as Home Secretary depends not on the substance of the allegations by Derek Lewis, nor on constitutional questions of ministerial responsibility, but on whether he retains the support of Cabinet and backbench colleagues. *So far*, he does.

Whether ministers stay or resign depends on the political mood of the time. Of course, further damaging charges, or rather the build-up of charges, can tip the balance against a minister. *But it does not* really matter how forceful and eloquent Jack Straw is in deploying *Labour's case in this afternoon's* debate unless he can prove that Mr Howard has deliberately misled the Commons and can therefore shake the confidence of Tory *MPs* in the Home Secretary.

A total of 22 Cabinet ministers have resigned since 1945. Three *fifths quit because of* disagreements of principle and over policy, ranging from Aneurin Bevan and Harold Wilson in 1951 to John Redwood four months ago. A further four have gone because of personal scandals: leaving five who have resigned because of their conduct in office. These are Hugh Dalton over a Budget leak in 1947, Lord Carrington and Humphrey Atkins over the Falklands in 1982, Leon Brittan over the Westland affair in 1986 and Nicholas Ridley in 1990, *though the latter* was because of his remarks about Germany in a *Spectator* interview rather than because of what he did as Trade and Industry Secretary.

There was often an interval between the original incident and *resignation*. The decisive factor was the hostility of fellow MPs. Some ministers have resisted going at *first* but have ultimately accepted the verdict of their colleagues. This applied even when Sir Thomas Dugdale resigned as Minister of Agriculture (not then a Cabinet post) in 1954 over the action of his officials in the Crichel Down compensation case. *It is a popular myth that Sir* Thomas's resignation is a pure, and rarely repeated, example of a minister taking responsibility for the conduct of his civil servants even without knowing at the time what they had done. Private papers published after Sir Thomas's death show that he resigned as a direct result of Tory backbench criticism rather than as a matter of principle.

This is shown by the many cases where senior ministers have remained despite furious rows over the actions of their department. This has applied particularly over prison and security matters — for instance, Roy Jenkins in 1966 *after the George Blake escape*, William Whitelaw in 1982 after an intruder broke into the Queen's bedroom, Kenneth Baker in 1991-92 after an escape from Brixton prison, *and a succession* of Northern Ireland Secretaries. These ministers have had the sympathy of their backbenchers, who have accepted their explanation and have argued that any errors need to be put in the context of their broader record.

Prime Ministers are normally reluctant to lose ministers because of the potential damage *to the Government. But if the* controversy continues, a Prime Minister may risk of being hurt *more by the minister staying than* going. Thus the departures of Lord Carrington and Mr Atkins were necessary to satisfy Tory anger over the Argentine invasion *of the Falklands and to* safeguard Margaret Thatcher's position. Similarly, Leon Brittan's departure in January 1986 was to protect Mrs Thatcher.

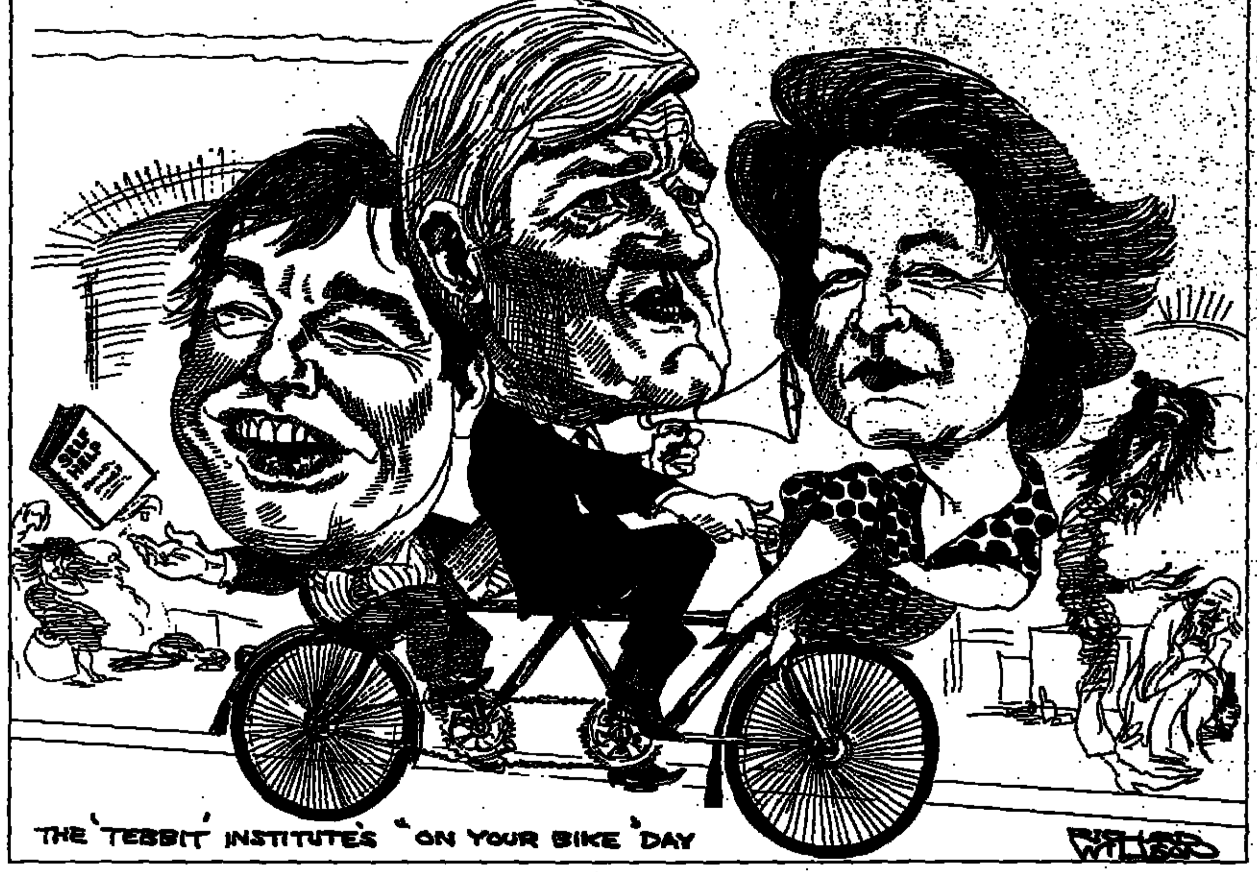
The political convalescence, if not recovery, of the Major Government would be severely *undermined* if Mr Howard had to resign. Apart from a raised eyebrow from Sir Peter Lloyd, the former Prisons Minister, over the sacking of Mr Lewis, even publicity-seeking Tory MPs have been quiet. Most do, after all, back his tough line on law and order. Their *silence is Mr Howard's* strongest support at present.

PETER RIDDELL

Major's allies back think-tank's attack on nanny State and dependency culture

New forum plans Thatcherite cure for social problems

By Nicholas Wood, *chief political correspondent*


THE 'TEBBIT' INSTITUTE'S 'ON YOUR BIKE' DAY
RICHARD WILLSON

JOHN MAJOR has given his private blessing to a new Tory think-tank dedicated to carving out a revolutionary new social policy agenda for the rest of the century.

Viscount Cranborne, Leader of the House of Lords and a *key ally of the Prime Minister*, has agreed to be patron of Politeia, a new "forum for economic and social thinking" to be launched officially next month. The Greek name reflects its mission of redrawing the boundary between the *individual and the State*.

Viscount Cranborne, a scion of the Cecil family, the country's oldest and most distinguished political dynasty, played a central role in Mr Major's re-election campaign in the summer and has since *been instrumental in healing* the rift with a bruised Tory Right.

Lord Parkinson, a former Tory party chairman, is to be the forum's treasurer, which is another sign that it is being set up with the encour*agement of the* Conservative Establishment.

The forum's aim will be to sharpen the divide with Tony Blair, *the Labour leader*, over welfare reform, education, health, crime, public spending and taxation and measures to tackle unemployment. It will champion *individual* and family-based solutions in contrast to Mr Blair's "statist" ap*proach to such problems*.

It will campaign for a cut in state spending from its present 44 per cent of national output to about 30 per cent and press the case for incentives for the better-off to become less reliant on the State. The forum *will also seek to revitalise the* internal Tory debate over policies for the next manifesto and a fifth term of Conservative Government.

Dr Sheila Lawlor, a former Cambridge don and for the past seven years deputy direc*tor of the Centre for Policy* Studies, will be Politeia's new director of studies.

Dr Lawlor is understood to be close to Norman Blackwell, the director of Mr Major's Downing Street policy unit. Her decision to leave the CPS, *the most influential of the Tory* think-tanks in the Thatcher era, symbolises a realisation among key elements on the *Tory Right that the time has* come to forge a radical new agenda around the Prime Minister.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Dr Lawlor said that the forum would seek to apply free-market *Thatcherite ideas, which had* worked so well in the economic sphere, to the big social problems of the 1990s. "The great agenda of nowadays is how far can we have a framework that does not penalise enterprise and thrift. *The great danger of targeting* is that we are penalising those who have saved."

She believed that the forum's policy agenda is in tune with the Prime Minister's thinking. "He does not want dependency and he's very *keen to allow people to get on* with their lives. This will be an ideal forum without any of the baggage of the past.

"One of the great problems of the 1980s and the early 1990s was one did not go as far as the social agenda. Every *party recognises that there are* social problems in our country — crime, broken families, poor education, a growing dependency culture and, most of all, unemployment.

"*If you can solve unemploy*ment, a lot of other problems will solve themselves — the way in which people are cut off from society, the way in which *families have difficulty in* bringing up their children. All kinds of things are related to *not being employed*.

"On the Left, they say all this is down to economic liberalism: the Thatcher revolution failed, everybody was out for themselves and com*munities disintegrated*.

"The Left says that what we have to do is recreate government and we will have a society which pulls together. *But the real problem* of the 1980s and the early 1990s was that we left in place huge areas in which the State *still* ran people's lives, in education, housing and employment.

"All kinds of restrictions and regulations remained from schooling to pensions ... *But intervention did not* succeed in the economy and it is time to change that statist approach to the daily lives of people — to look at how best to *help people to help themselves* and what is the best basis for high employment.

"We are taxing people. We are spending their money. We are choosing their schools. We are giving them education which, we all agree, is not good enough, forcing them to use *certain state services* and taxing them for the privilege. Then, at the end of the day, we are giving them income support.

"*We are continuing to create* dependency. We are putting more and more people into the bracket where they cannot spend their own money because the State is spending it for them."

Lottery 'should aid libraries'

A *LABOUR* government would allow public libraries access to lottery funds, Chris Smith, the party's spokesman on the arts, promised yesterday (John Young writes).

At present only libraries categorised as an archive or those that occupy an historic building qualify for lottery money. Mr Smith said Labour wanted to change the rules to allow lottery money *to be used for new library* buildings but he did not want to see lottery money used for *basic core funding of the* public library service.

Mr Smith was speaking at a conference in London organised by the Library Association and timed to coincide with a lobby of *Parliament* in protest at cuts in library funding. The association said it made no sense *for libraries to be denied* lottery money when it could be used to build or refurbish sports and arts centres.

MPs force pay cut for Commons watchdog

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

THE first ombudsman on Commons standards is to be appointed on a greatly reduced salary to prevent a wave of criticism from *MPs* complaining about their own pay.

Proposals to pay the Parlia*mentary* Commissioner for Standards up to £98,000 have been shelved because of fears that MPs earning only a third of that would resent him *supervising their outside busi*ness interests. However, the decision to scale down the salary will prompt doubts over the calibre of candidate for an appointment which senior MPs said would "determine the whole ethos of the *House's rules and procedures* on conduct".

MPs suggested in July that the *commissioner should* be paid in line with members of the judiciary, giving the Commons the option of appointing on a salary of £72,000 to £98,000. *Now the Commons* committee in charge of the appointment has decided that the salary should be less than £50,000, more in line with MPs' pay, which will rise to £34,085 in January.

Backbench MPs have voiced concern *about* the commissioner earning much more than the people whose financial interests he is *scrutinising*. One senior MP said yesterday: "This is a serious point and, if this whole system of maintaining standards is to be effective, the *salary* issue has to be handled sensitively."

The commissioner, who is likely *to start work next year*, will be responsible for maintaining a register of MPs' financial interests, investigating complaints about MPs' conduct and offering advice on propriety and ethics. A recommendation on the appoint*ment is expected* to be put to the Commons later this month. The post is expected to be full time.

Tory is freed to seek safer seat

By James Landale, political reporter

THE *Tory MP Nick Hawkins*, who has been searching for seat safer than his marginal Blackpool South, has now been abandoned by the constituency association there.

Tory chiefs voted almost unanimously on Tuesday *night to begin the process of* selecting a new prospective parliamentary candidate. The move came on the same day that Mr Hawkins joined the *Government* payroll vote as parliamentary private secretary to the Defence Ministers, Nicholas Soames and James Arbuthnot.

Although Mr Hawkins has applied to several other seats, including Southend West, *Stone and Reading West*, he has so far been unsuccessful.

Although local party bosses claim the move is a result of minor changes to the constituency *boundaries* and *is* entirely amicable, some members are known to be dismayed by *what they see* as Mr Hawkins's desertion of his constituents, whom he has represented since 1992.His majority of 1,667 will almost certainly be overturned *by Labour at* the next election.

Labour was quick to *capitalise on the latest of what they describe as the* "chicken run" of Tories from marginal to safe seats. Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, said that Mr Hawkins was now "a chicken with nowhere to roost".

Mr Hawkins said: "I expect *my own future* to become clearer over the next few months. I have been enormously grateful for the consistent and continuing support of my constituency chairman, deputy chairman and Blackpool South Conservative Association."

John Bostock, the party agent for Blackpool South, said there was no ill-feeling and Mr Hawkins would now be *able to look for a new* constituency without feeling beholden to his present seat. "We have finally released him from his ties to us."

Collin Hanson, the party chairman, said that until Mr Hawkins found a new seat, the constituency party *would* not have known whether a new candidate was needed or not."Nick is an extremely conscientious and good MP. We could do with *keeping him. It* has been entirely amicable on both sides, although I am very *sad that it has happened*."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: *backbench debates starting with Government policy towards Latin America. At 2.30pm, questions to Scottish ministers* followed by Opposition debate on rail privatisation. In the Lords: debates on Gas Bill, report stage, and the Social Security (Income Support and Claims and Payments) Amendment Regulations.

TODAY in the Commons: questions to Home Office ministers and the Prime Minister. Debates on the Prison Service and the 25th anniversary of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. In *the Lords*: debate on *Town and Country* Planning (Cost of Inquiries) Bill and the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Bill.

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هكذا امن الاهرام

Claes 'needs miracle' to keep top Nato job

By Charles Bremner, Brussels Correspondent

WILLY CLAES, who has led Nato for the past year, will make a final attempt to keep his job as Secretary-General today when he goes before the Belgian parliament to plead his innocence on charges of corruption.

The Belgian political world believes that it would take a near-miracle for the 150-seat chamber, sitting in camera, to reverse the decision of an all-party commission, which recommended on Saturday that the 56-year-old former minister should be indicted for his alleged involvement in a party bribery affair in the late 1980s.

A decision to lift Mr Claes's immunity and send him before the high court is expected to trigger his resignation from Nato and accelerate a search for his successor at the head of the Western alliance.

Mr Claes gave a brief and "realistic" assessment of his position when he met Nato ambassadors for lunch on Tuesday, diplomats said. He told them that he still hoped to avoid indictment but indicated that a decision against him would end his long fight to cling to the office that he assumed on October 17, 1994, after the death of Germany's Manfred Wörner.

The pressure is high for a swift transition to avoid drift just as Nato is about to embark on a large-scale operation to police the Bosnian peace and is redesigning itself to handle the new balance of power in Eastern Europe. The most cited figure as Mr Claes's successor remains Uffe Elleman-Jensen, the former Danish Foreign Minister and leader of the opposition Liberal Party.

Other favoured names are Ruud Lubbers, the former Dutch Prime Minister, Volker Rühe, the German Defence Minister, and Hans van den Broek, a former Dutch Foreign Minister and now the European Commissioner for External Affairs. Malcolm Rifkind is also being mentioned despite his recent switch from Defence to Foreign Secretary. Douglas Hurd, his predecessor as Foreign Secretary, is said to have ruled himself out.

Mr Claes, preparing for his last stand, was being advised by colleagues not to adopt the emotional approach of his appearance before the commission last week, where he proclaimed his innocence and depicted himself as the victim of political machination. The Secretary-General, whose austere appearance masks a volatile personality, will be allowed to address the parliament, but will not be questioned by MPs before they cast their secret vote late today.

Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, has dealt a blow to Mr Claes by instructing MPs to vote with their consciences rather than observe political solidarity. Mr Dehaene's centre-Left coalition includes Mr Claes's Flemish Socialist Party.

The former Foreign and Economics Minister insists that he is being railroaded over a scandal of relatively minor dimensions in which no one asserts that he made any personal gain. He is making much of the fact that the prosecutors have produced no new evidence, nor advanced material proof of his guilt. Instead, they have gathered "indications of guilt" over alleged bribes to his party from the Italian Agusta and French Dassault aviation firms in return for big military contracts in 1988.

The commission confirmed this approach in a report yesterday. The prosecutor had emphasised that there were "sufficient indications" to justify parliament's decision to indict Mr Claes "for corruption as a perpetrator, co-perpetrator or accomplice and for forgery and fraud", the commission report said.

The report said the material cited by the prosecutor against Mr Claes and Guy Coeme, a party colleague, "seems to constitute the successive and continuous manifestation of the same criminal intent".

Mr Claes must convince at least 76 MPs of his innocence. "I hope that I can count on my political comrades," he said. The hearing is likely to last until early tomorrow.

Dehaene: told MPs to obey their consciences

Leading article, page 21

One of Eldin Esovic's relatives kisses him before his departure from Bosnia yesterday

Sarajevo children leave for Britain

By Our Foreign Staff

MEMBERS of his family bade an emotional farewell to 13-year-old Eldin Esovic yesterday as the Bosnian boy left hospital in Sarajevo to fly to Oxford for treatment.

With him on the flight was Jadranka Zelenovic, a 15-year-old girl. Eldin will be treated at the Radcliffe Infirmary for the terrible injuries he suffered in a grenade explosion; Jadranka will be admitted to the Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow for treatment of intestinal problems.

The boy lost his sight and most of his arms when a grenade with which he was playing exploded. He is unaware of the extent of the damage to his eyes: before leaving Sarajevo he was urging doctors to remove the imaginary bandages he believed would prevent him looking out of the aircraft as he flew to Britain.

Since he was injured he has been using the stumps of his arms to try to remove the nonexistent bandages. "He has hopes of seeing the world one day," Vesna Cengic, his doctor, has been quoted as saying, "but one day he has to know the truth."

Since the blast, Eldin's father, Esad, whose wife was killed two years ago, has kept a constant vigil at the boy's bedside in the Sarajevo State Hospital.

Belgrade and Sarajevo act to restore ties

From Tom Rhodes in Washington

SERBIA and Bosnia agreed to establish liaison offices in their capitals yesterday, paving the way for the resumption of diplomatic ties severed by Belgrade three years ago.

The Clinton Administration, preparing the ground for negotiations in America between the warring parties later this month, announced that the talks would be held in the less than personal surroundings of Wright-Patterson airforce base at Dayton, Ohio, rather than the intimate setting of Camp David.

Officials continued to remain optimistic of a successful outcome, but Richard Holbrooke, the American special envoy to the region, played down the agreement to open offices between Sarajevo and Belgrade when he visited the Bosnian capital. "This is a small step on a long and difficult road," Mr Holbrooke said after flying into Sarajevo with Carl Bildt of the European Union and Igor Ivanov of Russia.

The two countries broke off diplomatic communication when Bosnia ceded from rump Yugoslavia in 1992, sparking the conflict which, despite a countrywide ceasefire last week, continued to flare in northwestern Bosnia yesterday.

Mr Holbrooke, who was shuttling between the two capitals in advance of *American peace talks scheduled for* October 31, will co-chair the negotiations at Dayton with *Mr Bildt*.

When President Carter hosted the Camp David talks on the Middle East he established an atmosphere of great intimacy between Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Anwar Sadat, the Egyptian President. President Clinton, however, is leaving the day-to-day negotiations to Mr Holbrooke and Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, who will open the talks and shuttle back and forth when necessary. The White House is only too aware that negotiations could fail and damage Mr Clinton if they were to be held in more "presidential" surroundings.

The base, whose high fences will fend off media interest, has three separate but identical generals' quarters which will house the presidents of Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia when they arrive in America for the proximity talks.

☐ **Banja Luka:** Two French pilots shot down during a Nato bombing mission have been kidnapped from hospital either by a gang seeking ransom or by Bosnian Muslims, Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said. In Belgrade, Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said he had no fresh news about the pilots. *(AFP)*

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US fears march of fundamentalist Muslim creed across North Africa

By Mark Huband
North Africa Correspondent

WESTERN policymakers are preparing for Algeria's armed insurgency to descend into outright civil war in the light of the military-backed Government's failure to hold talks with Islamic militants. That intensifies worries that other states in the region may be unable to contain Islamic militancy.

The United States and France view the Algerian crisis as a threat to the entire Mediterranean region and one over which their influence is extremely limited. "Beyond the far-reaching consequences for Algeria itself, gains by the most radical Islamists could embolden extremists in neighbouring North African states such as Tunisia or Morocco, key American allies in the region," David Welch, US principal deputy assistant secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, told the congressional African affairs subcommittee last week.

Vital strategic issues are being raised in Washington. Bruce Reidel, deputy assistant secretary for Defence, told the same committee: "The Department of Defence has serious concerns about the turmoil in Algeria. A power vacuum in Algeria or a hostile government coming to power [there] carries very dangerous ramifications for which the US must be prepared." Mr Reidel identified the need to keep free the Mediterranean sealane between the Atlantic, the Gulf and the Indian Ocean as the key defence-related concern. "If the Algeria situation deteriorates to full-scale civil war or Algeria becomes a hostile Islamic revolutionary state, these forces could rapidly complicate the US military operations worldwide," he said.

Increasing tensions within Algeria's military-backed Government between those determined to destroy the hardliners and conciliators seeking negotiations have isolated foreign governments from the centre of power. In the meantime, foreign influence over the armed fundamentalists inside the country is non-existent. America has avoided the trap of being portrayed as the Islamists' enemy by promoting dialogue between the Muslim groups and the Government, but to no avail.

France, after initially softening the anti-fundamentalist line it adopted when the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) appeared poised to win the 1992 election, has re-established its public ties with President Zeroual, who is due to meet President Chirac at the UN next week. There is agreement in the West that Algiers's confrontational strategy is not the solution to the crisis, but France is unable to mediate because it is too deeply entrenched with Algeria's French-speaking middle class to which it bequeathed power on Algerian independence in 1962 after 130 years of French colonial rule. That middle class is the hardliners' main enemy.

President Chirac has said he will press Mr Zeroual to reopen dialogue with all parties and hinted that continuation of French aid to Algeria, worth £700 million a year, would depend on the creation of a democratic system. However, talks with the hardliners collapsed this year and led to the FIS and other political parties, which won 80 per cent of the vote in the 1992 election, boycotting the presidential election planned for November 16.

Western concerns over Morocco and Tunisia have centred on the ability of those countries' governments to undermine support for the extremists by improving living standards and thus denying them their constituency among the poor.

While a direct military spillover from Algeria is unlikely, unless refugees flood into Morocco and then push towards Southern Europe, the war is regarded in the West as a potential morale booster for fundamentalists in the region. In Tunisia, Islamic leaders were given long prison sentences in the early 1990s. In Morocco, Yassine Abdessalam, the fundamentalist leader, is under house arrest and his followers have been jailed. But in neither country has Islamist sentiment been obliterated.

Algeria's presidential election, which Mr Zeroual is expected to win, is expected to intensify what was described yesterday by one diplomat in Algiers as the Government's "take-no-prisoners war" against the hardliners. Two Algerian newspapers reported security service claims on Saturday that up to 400 militants, including Mezrak Madani, the FIS military commander, were killed last week in the eastern province of Jiljel.

Chirac ordered by terrorists to cut links with Algeria

From Ben Macintyre in Paris

THE Islamic terrorist group believed to be responsible for the recent wave of bombings in France has issued an ultimatum to President Chirac to cancel a planned meeting next week with President Zeroual of Algeria or face further bloodshed.

The day after another bomb exploded in the Paris Métro injuring 29 people, the London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Sharq al-Awsat* reported that the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) had sent a list of four demands to the French Government.

The GIA, an offshoot of the banned Islamic Salvation Front and one of the most radical of the groups trying to undermine French support for the military-installed Algerian Government, has claimed responsibility for the bombing campaign in France which has killed seven people and injured 160 since July. The terrorist group also demanded that President Chirac suspend all economic aid to Algeria, close the French Embassy in Algiers and condemn the presidential election due in Algeria on November 16.

France provided about six billion francs (£770 million) in economic aid to Algeria last year.

The French Interior and Foreign Ministries yesterday refused to comment on whether the GIA's demands had been received, but French security officials have confirmed that the document is genuine, *al-Sharq al-Awsat* reported.

President Chirac yesterday rejected accusations that the planned meeting in New York on October 23 with President Zeroual, a retired general who is expected to win next month's election, amounted to an endorsement of his candidacy. "The President's wish is not to support anyone," M Chirac's spokesman said yesterday.

Amid growing fears that France could be dragged into the Algerian conflict, leaders of the Socialist opposition condemned the meeting as "inopportune". Jean-Marie Le Pen, the leader of the far-right National Front, described the move as "lunatic".

President Chirac and Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, both rejected accusations that the Government is meddling in Algerian politics and insisted that the meeting, which will take place during ceremonies to mark the United Nations' fiftieth anniversary, would create a "dialogue" through which pressure could be put on the Algerian Government to introduce democratic reform.

Hervé de Charette, the Foreign Minister, sought to play down the significance of the meeting with President Zeroual, which he called a normal diplomatic encounter between two heads of state.

More than 40,000 people have died in the political violence that has engulfed Algeria since 1992, when the military-backed Government cancelled elections which Muslim fundamentalists were poised to win.

The Foreign Ministry yesterday repeated calls for all French citizens still in Algeria whose presence is "not essential" to leave the country immediately, as the authorities reinforced security across France in the wake of the bombing on Tuesday.

About 14,500 police and troops have already been deployed in the emergency security operation, codenamed Vigipirate, and a further 4,500 will now be added, Jean-Louis Debré, the Interior Minister, said yesterday. "We have mobilised the security forces as never before," M Debré said, while admitting: "We can't prevent all bombings . . . because there are millions and millions of people who travel by Métro, train, bus or car every day."

The GIA is also reported to have drawn up a hit-list of French journalists whom it has sworn to kill for opposing its "holy war".

Parisians face up to security failure

By Ben Macintyre

THE first bomb on the Paris Métro last July killed seven people, leaving the city bewildered and incredulous.

Subsequent attacks did not, however, cause the same level of carnage and, buoyed by promises that the Government would soon round up those responsible, the city became almost resigned to a world in which litter bins were sealed against potential bombers and a visit to the supermarket meant every housewife had to have her bag checked.

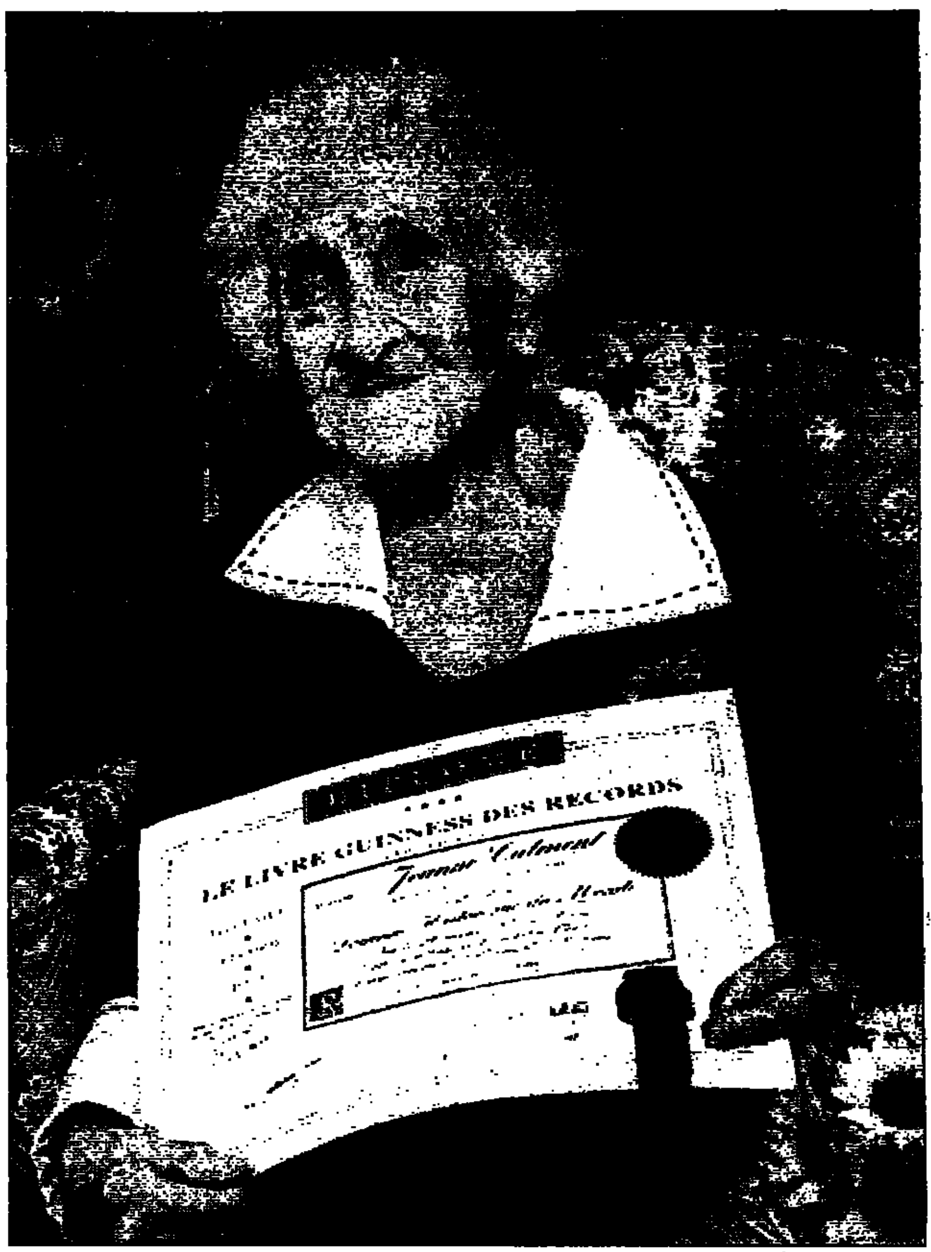
The explosion that ripped through another underground train on Tuesday blew away any complacency and illustrated the grim truths many Parisians would rather not face: the threat from Algerian extremists has not abated.

"Paris is scared," *Le Parisien* said in banner headlines yesterday. *Le Figaro* talked darkly about a new "collective hysteria".

An armed gendarme now stands guard outside every Metro station. At rush-hour yesterday, Metro trains were half-empty, many commuters having opted for the bus.

For the first time, French authorities have admitted that the attacks — eight so far, with seven killed and 160 injured — have begun to affect tourism.

The police have carried out about 1.85 million identity checks on French citizens and although many arrests have been made, only five suspected terrorists have been caught.


LE LIVRE GUINNESS DES RECORDS
Jeanne Calment

One for the record book

Jeanne Calment, the Frenchwoman who this week became the world's longest-living person at the age of 120 years 238 days, holds her *Guinness Book of Records* diploma during a celebration yesterday at her retirement home in Arles. Mme Calment, who recommends laughter as a recipe for longevity and once met Vincent van Gogh, set her record on Tuesday after passing the age of 120 years 237 days, at which Japan's Schigechiyo Izumi died in 1986. "I am very brave and fear nothing," she told reporters. Blind and almost deaf, she hoped everyone would "live a life as happy" as hers and agreed to kiss some of the reporters. Her doctor said the 120-year mark had motivated her. "Now she has few goals to fulfil." *(Reuter)*

Fiji hints at French envoy ban

Suva: Fiji has suggested that France should recall its ambassador because his safety cannot be guaranteed while Paris continues to test nuclear bombs in the South Pacific.

Filipe Bole, the Fiji Foreign Minister, was quoted as telling Jacques Godfrain, the French Minister for Cooperation, that "Paris might like to think of recalling its ambassador from Fiji, possibly for a prolonged consultation for six months, instead of Fiji sending him away."

The ambassador, Jacques-Andre Costilhes, said he was surprised by the comments, which could be seen as encouraging violence. He said Fiji should guard him. *(Reuter)*

Sharon to seek Arafat arrest

Tel Aviv: Ariel Sharon, a leading member of the right-wing Likud Party, said that he would recommend that Yassir Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chief, be captured and brought to Jerusalem to face trial as a "war criminal" if Likud wins the election next year (Christopher Walker writes). Mr Sharon, the former Defence Minister, ruled out any chance of maintaining the relations with Mr Arafat established by the present Government.

Most Portuguese 'struggle to read'

Lisbon: More than half of the Portuguese population aged from 15 to 64 has serious difficulties reading and writing, a study by the Social Sciences Institute showed. It said 5.7 million people had problems working with written material and most people did not read newspapers. Antonio Guterres, the Prime Minister-elect, is to boost education spending. *(Reuter)*

Drive to crush Tamil rebels

Colombo: Sri Lankan forces launched air and artillery strikes against Tamil Tiger rebels on the second day of a push to crush their Jaffna stronghold. The Army said it had killed 61 guerrillas. The government says more than 50,000 people have died in the 12-year war. *(Reuter)*

New trial threat for Stasi spy

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

MARKUS WOLF, East Germany's notorious spymaster, had his six-year jail sentence overturned yesterday. However, the former Stasi general was not celebrating too much: the judges have ruled that he must face an investigation into whether he ran spy operations from countries such as Sweden or Austria.

Herr Wolf, 72, controlled agents who penetrated every political party in West Germany; he is regarded as the most successful spy chief of the Cold War years. The federal court of justice has been contemplating his case since May. Then, the Constitutional Court ruled against the prosecution of espionage as long as the spying was carried out exclusively from East German territory. The legal logic was clear: East German spies obeyed East German laws and could not be held guilty of treason.

Moreover, they should be treated equally with West German spies. That appeared to get Herr Wolf — who has since become a minor celebrity — off the hook. He was sentenced in 1993 to six years' imprisonment for treason and for bribing West Germans to spy for the East.

The judges yesterday ordered prosecutors to see if there is enough evidence for a new trial on the basis of his spying activities in non-Warsaw Pact countries. It is known that he met German agents in Sweden and Austria.

If the prosecutors can make charges of blackmail and bribery stick, then Herr Wolf may yet end up behind bars. But legal sources say the most likely outcome is that further charges will be dropped.

Swedish leader will face fraud inquiry

From Nicholas George in Stockholm

MONA ŚAHLIN, the Swedish Deputy Prime Minister, is to face a criminal investigation into her misuse of government credit cards, prosecutors said yesterday.

The move cast further doubt on her ambition to succeed Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister, who is to step down next March. Mrs Sahlin, 38, who had been the only candidate for the leadership of the ruling Social Democratic Party, has withdrawn her candidature for the job until after the outcome of the inquiry. Mr Carlsson made it clear yesterday that he had no intention of changing his mind about stepping down.

According to the prosecutors, Mrs Sahlin could face charges of breach of trust and fraud. "There is reason to assume that Mona Sahlin's handling of the credit card and the subsequent invoicing was criminal," Solveig Riberdahl, the assistant prosecutor, said yesterday.

Mrs Sahlin, who has paid back the money, with interest, said she welcomed the investigation. She has admitted making mistakes but insists that she is not a cheat.

In the meantime, attention is focusing on Jan Nygren, the Minister of Co-ordination, as the next favourite to lead the party. Goran Persson, the Finance Minister, is also under pressure to stand.

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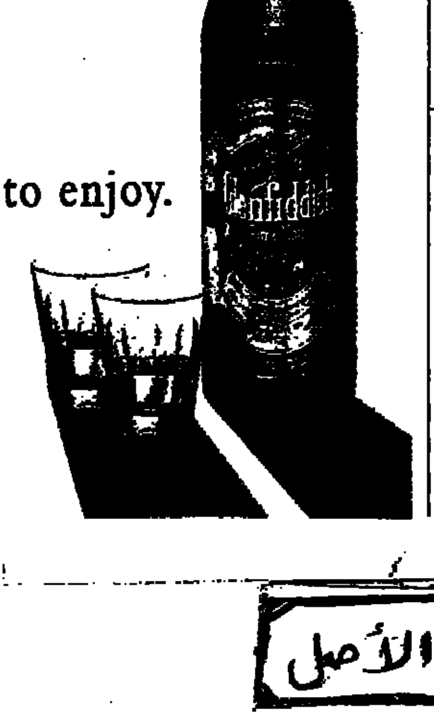
Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.



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Corruption paves way to Nigeria's breakdown

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN ABUJA

THE line of cars retreated, *bumper to bumper*, through the petrol station, stretching back along a highway in the centre of Abuja, before snaking down a side street out of view. "That's Nigeria for you," sighed a weary taxi driver.

Petrol queues in a country *producing two million barrels* of oil a day and the fourth biggest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries are mind-boggling, but in this topsy-turvy country reality is often detached from reason.

The Government's excuses for the shortages often border on the ridiculous — technical problems is a favourite — but the people are only too aware that mismanagement and the greasing of palms have crippled refineries.

The discovery of oil is the key to discovering Nigeria. Between 1970 and the collapse of world oil prices in the early 1980s, $100 billion (£63 billion) flowed into Nigeria's coffers and out again just as quickly. Influential members of the patchwork of tribes — dominated by three, the Hausa-Fulani, the Ibo and the Yoruba — felt a duty to look after their own and did so with alarming success.

Today Nigeria is synonymous with corruption. The army chief with his range of sports cars, the minister who jets off to Las Vegas for a weekend and the President's wife squandering thousands of pounds on a foreign trip — the stories are endless. In this wealth-obsessed society it is cool to say "spray" — pasting *banknotes on sweaty fore*heads at parties, and "dashing" *(bribery)* and fraud, are part of everyday life.

Nigeria's incurable taste for spending beyond its means is *manifest in Abuja. In 1975 the* military decided to move the capital from chaotic Lagos to bush in the middle of the country. Twenty years later, Abuja's skyline is dotted with *skeletons of half-finished* buildings — costs have multiplied *and money has dried up*.

A safe distance from the President's gleaming white villa, sprawling Garki village offers a glimpse of the lifestyle endured by most Nigerians. The slum settlement of an estimated 500,000 in central Abuja has no running water or electricity. Children scamper in rotting piles of garbage and hidden from view a female leper, legs wrapped in plastic, squats on her haunches by a stream of greyish filth from an open sewer. At a fly-blown food market, a butcher said: "The commoners are suffering but the Government could not care less. Some, like me, turn to the Almighty but others turn to crime. Who can blame them?"

The Government can and it does. Cause and effect are overlooked as criminals are highlighted as scapegoats for the military regime's failings. Such is the economic misery that draconian sentences and mass executions have done nothing to stem the crime wave sweeping the country. Armed robberies and car hijackings are commonplace.

The Government responds to criticism by setting up committees and berating outsiders for failing to understand the complexities of running a country with nearly 100 million people. It says thousands take to the streets "in support" of its policies, but nobody is fooled by the stage-managed "rent-a-crowds".

General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's military ruler, has repeatedly denied that the country's leading opposition politician, Chief Moshood Abiola, is a political prisoner and his case is *judicial* — this from the same man who has already *said publicly that the chief*, widely believed to have won the 1993 *presidential* elevtion, is guilty.

Abacha: has publicly *branded Abiola guilty*

*Walter Ofonagoro, the In*formation Minister, is pleading with Western governments for greater sympathy. On a potholed *road in Lagos*, I pondered his plea while two police officers denounced me as a spy, a subversive and anti-Nigerian. My protest that their Government had invited me was met only by threat of arrest and at the end of my 15-minute ordeal one inquired whether he could have "something for the weekend".

Anxious Palestinian families expelled from Libya wait aboard the car ferry anchored off the Cyprus port of Larnaca for news of their fate

Syrian signal of hope for stranded exiles

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU ON BOARD THE COUNTESS M, OFF CYPRUS

THE fate of 650 Palestinians, including more than 300 young children and babies, stranded on board a car ferry off Cyprus after being expelled from Libya remained uncertain last night, after Syria agreed to accept most of them.

It was unclear whether the Greek captain of the Cyprus-flagged *Countess M* was prepared to set sail unless all would be accepted.

Syria, which turned the ship away earlier this week, said it would take those with Syrian documents. Most had these, but others were travelling on Lebanese and Jordanian papers. Palestinian officials said 600 had Syrian travel documents and had lived in Syria before going to Libya.

Before the Syrian decision that could end their ordeal, the passengers were angry, saying they were being used as political pawns. "We don't know why we're here," said Omar, 35, a civil engineer and father of two. "It seems our fault is we are Palestinians."

There were children everywhere on board, playing in the carpeted corridors while mothers dandled babies sucking at bottles of milk. Mona, 27, whose five children were huddled round her, said: "There isn't enough baby milk, or Pampers or medicine and we have no doctor."

"They are angry and nervous," said Samir Abu Ghazala, head of the Palestinian mission in Cyprus, who was given a rapturous welcome when he visited the ship, anchored a mile offshore. "They've lost everything in Libya and have been thrown into the unknown."

Publicly, none was willing to blame Syria or Libya for their plight, in case they were admitted to either country. Privately, many were furious with Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, who ordered the expulsion of 30,000 Palestinians, ostensibly to expose the shortcomings in the deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which made no provision for hundreds of thousands of refugees.

"Gaddafi said 'you've got a country, now go to it'," said Etedal Hiattid, 23, in a Larnaca hospital, where she was expected to give birth to twins last night. An RAF helicopter airlifted her from the ship on Tuesday. Sobbing, she said: "I miss my husband and little girl — she's four — they're still on the ship. Of course," she added hurriedly, "we don't blame Gaddafi".

Gaddafi to expel million aliens

BY MARK HUBAND
NORTH AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

LIBYA is planning to expel more than a million foreign workers in what is regarded as a response to its worsening economic problems and rising unemployment.

Details of Tripoli's intention emerged at a meeting of the United Nations Security Council sanctions committee late on Tuesday. The committee rejected a request from Libya for the UN embargo on flights to the country to be lifted to allow the expulsion of 1,067,000 workers who, the regime of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi claims, are on its territory illegally.

Last month, Libya expelled 5,000 of its Palestinian population of 30,000 in an attempt to disrupt the Middle East peace accord creating Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The new wave of expulsions, which would reduce the population of Libya by a fifth, appears to have no direct political motive, according to Western diplomats.

One diplomatic source said: "In the case of the Palestinians, there was a strong political motive. That has been a feature of the leader's behaviour in the past: to threaten or to go through with the expulsion of foreign workers of one nationality or another. It has been used against Tunisia and Egypt. But the picture we have been getting is that there are now economic problems too, exacerbated to a certain extent by the effect of sanctions."

At least 500,000 of those facing expulsion are Sudanese, 300,000 are from Chad and 250,000 from Mali. The rest are from other West African countries. In letters to the UN committee, Libya sought permission for facilities for Libyan or UN aircraft and said that more than 2,200 flights would be needed. It said it had reached agreement with countries of origin for the foreigners' return.

Air links to Libya were cut as part of UN sanctions in *response to its failure to hand* over two men accused by America and Britain of responsibility for the bombing of a Pan Am *flight over* Lockerbie in 1988 in which 267 people were killed.

Three die each day in Kenya prisons

BY INIGO GILMORE

KENYA'S Government has come under renewed criticism over *its human rights* record after a senior minister *disclosed that at least three* people die each day in the *country's squalid, overcrowd*ed prisons.

The disclosure was *made* by Francis Lotodo, the Home Affairs Minister, who *told* parliament that 819 prisoners *had died since the start of the* year. They had succumbed to *diseases that* included malaria, tuberculosis, Aids, diarrhoea, pneumonia and typhoid. Of the total, 291 were *on remand awaiting trial*.

The news was greeted by *shouts of "shame" from oppo*sition politicians. Backed by *sections of the media, they* have accused the Government of disregard for human life. An editorial in yesterday's *East African Standard said*: "It's no longer a dirty secret: *you don't have to be sentenced* to death to die in Kenya's *prisons*."

In June, Mr Lotodo admitted *the country's prisons* were overcrowd by 30 per cent, with 37,000 living *in space* designed for 21,000. Press *reports claimed that the pris*ons were five times over their *limit*.

Earlier this month, Em*manuel O'Kubasu*, a High Court judge, said jails were *not much* better than death chambers and the Govern*ment* did not follow official diet and hygiene guidelines.

Poorly clothed and naked, prisoners slept on filthy mattresses in overcrowded cells. According to human rights *activists, they are regularly* beaten by guards, food is poor *and scarce, and medicine* is rarely available.

Commonwealth rights abuses attacked

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AN INFLUENTIAL Com*monwealth human rights* group yesterday denounced *widespread abuses in many* Commonwealth states, and *accused governments of ignor*ing the 1991 Harare declara*tions on democracy, freedom* of expression and the rule of law.

A month before the 52-*nation summit in* Auckland, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative said that mili*tary rule was incompatible* with full membership, and called for the breaking off of sporting links with Nigeria. It *has already called for the* country's suspension until it *has restored human rights* and produced a firm timetable *for a return to civilian rule*.

Kamal Hossain, a former *Bangladesh Foreign Minister* who chairs the human rights *advisory commision, said*: "There's no justification for *treading lightly in the case of* Nigeria. We have to come out loud and clear and say there's *no room for this in the* Commonwealth."

The *report* coincides with a Foreign Office warning to *General Sani Abacha that* unless his military Govern*ment* accelerated *moves to* return to democracy, Britain *would consider additional* sanctions against Nigeria.

Yesterday's *report, entitled Rights Do Matter*, con*demned prison conditions in* India, and said torture in jails *had become the norm in* Pakistan. The report also criticised Kenya's ban on indepen*dent radio stations, and Zim*babwe's hostility to private broadcasting. It expressed alarm at the concentration of *media ownership in* Britain and criticised the Government *for not condemning* French nuclear tests and for refusing *full citizenship* to British *na*tionals from ethnic minorities in Hong Kong.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will not attend the summit, and some coun*tries may see this as indicative* of Britain's lack of interest in the Commonwealth.

Caste row topples hardliners

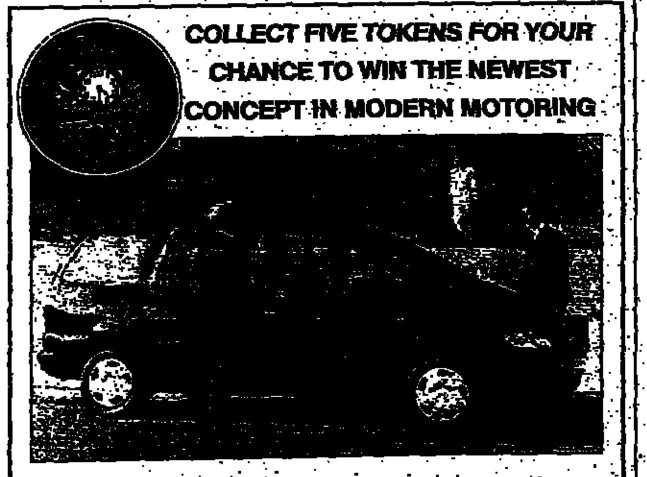
FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN DELHI

INDIA'S biggest state gov*ernment collapsed yesterday*, forcing Delhi to impose direct rule and bringing *hope to the* embattled Congress party that *its fortunes may be rising*. A general election is expected early *next year*.

Uttar Pradesh, population *120 million, had a unique* political arrangement in *which high castes from the* hardline Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), *shared* power with "Untouchables", *now more commonly* called Dalits (the oppressed).

Mayawati, the Chief Minister, was the first woman *Untouchable to reach such* political heights. Her Babujan Samaj Party resigned when the BJP withdrew its support after caste and policy clashes.

The peculiar political mix had lasted just over four months. The two parties, which represent the opposite *ends of the Hindu* social spectrum, came together out *of expediency after the previ*ous coalition collapsed.



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ROAD ATLAS

Dole urges Powell to keep out of White House race

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ROBERT DOLE, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, is publicly discouraging General Colin Powell, his strongest potential rival, from entering the race. As he nears his decision, however, the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has begun conspicuously courting the party's dominant conservative wing.

Mr Dole is warning General Powell that the adulation he has encountered during his national book tour is deceptive and his popularity will start to slide the moment he declares his candidature.

The general has been lobbed "more softball questions by the media in the last 30 days than anybody in memory", said the Senate leader who is making his third attempt to enter the White House. "He will discover, I think, you are most popular in politics the day you get in and the day you get out." A book tour was not the same as stumping across Iowa or New Hampshire. "You have got to have a message. You have got to have an agenda. You have got to have some ideas."

General Powell's book tour ends in Norfolk, Virginia, tomorrow. He will decide whether to run within the next three or four weeks, but is seeking to broaden his support by reaching out to the Republican Right. Having initially labelled the *Contract with America* put forward by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, "too hard" and "too harsh", he now finds in it "energy, life and a willingness to change".

Having earlier declared himself pro-choice, he now emphasises his personal opposition to abortion and its federal funding. Having deplored the religious Right's intolerance in his book, he now applauds it "for focusing our attention again on the fact we are one nation under God, focusing our attention on the family . . . the need for structure in the home . . . the need to love and raise children in a caring environment".

General Powell has "said the three or four things he had to say to be acceptable for the Republican nomination", William Kristol, a Republican strategist, said. With polls placing the general ten percentage points ahead of President Clinton, many conservatives would need little encouragement to vote for him.

Mr Dole, by contrast, trails Mr Clinton, and a remarkable volte-face on Tuesday night did nothing to consolidate his conservative support. In August he returned a $1,000 (£630) donation from a Republican homosexual organisation, saying he did not agree with its agenda. Now he has disowned that decision, blaming it on his staff. Phil Gramm, a presidential rival, suggested that his Senate colleague was having trouble deciding "who he is and what he stands for".

☐ **Wife's complaint:** Hillary Clinton, in an unusually candid discussion of her time in the White House, protested that first ladies are caught in an "inevitable double bind", criticised if too active and criticised if not active enough. She begged to be judged solely by her performance.

Mrs Clinton was speaking at the end of a Latin American tour that avoided politics and inspired several American newspapers to suggest that she had adopted a more traditional First Lady's role, lest she prove a liability to her husband's re-election chances.

New FBI rules of engagement

Washington: The FBI is changing its rules of engagement to avoid a repetition of its action at Ruby Ridge, when the wife and son of Randy Weaver, a white separatist, were killed during a siege three years ago (Tom Rhodes writes). Deadly force may now be used only in the face of death or serious injury.

OJ is back on course

Panama City Beach, Florida: O.J. Simpson, whose chipping-in-the-dark alibi was ridiculed by prosecutors at his murder trial, was back on a golf course this week watched by his girlfriend, Paula Barbieri.

"The man just came to play some golf, and that's what he did," said Paul Sylvester, manager of the pro shop and food services at the Hombre Golf Club, which is privately owned but open to the public. Mr Simpson shot an 82 on the 72-par course in a foursome of two local residents, whose names Mr Sylvester would not disclose, and the course superintendent, Joe Inman. Mr Inman told a reporter that Mr Simpson's game was a little shaky on the first half but then improved. The trial was not mentioned. *(AP)*

O. J. Simpson argues golfing points during a game in Florida watched by his girlfriend, Paula Barbieri, top left

Officials 'lied over size of march'

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

LOUIS FARRAKHAN says he will sue America's National Park Service for underestimating the size of Monday's Million Man March in Washington for racist reasons.

The Nation of Islam leader claimed he had organised the biggest demonstration in Washington's history, with well over a million men, but the National Park Service's estimate of the attendance was 400,000, making it only the fourth largest political rally.

"Racism, white supremacy and hatred for Louis Farrakhan disallows them from giving us credit," Mr Farrakhan said at a two-hour press conference. "We cannot and will not allow [the marchers'] place in history to be written out simply because of white supremacy." The park service stood by its estimate.

Mr Farrakhan called for a summit of the country's black leaders to develop a political agenda, to create a fund to promote black businesses and to set up a task force to counter black social disintegration. Six congressmen called for a national commission to report on race relations, and Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said the march was "a wake-up call for all America".

Saddam Hussein being sworn in on the Koran

Saddam pledge to Iraq

Baghdad: President Saddam Hussein, in his first speech to the nation in more than three months, promised that in his next seven years in power he would follow the same path as in the past. Saddam, speaking in the Iraqi parliament after his election, gave no hint anything would change now that he is President by "popular" referendum rather than because of the coup of 1968. State television inexplicably started broadcasting the proceedings at 12.30am yesterday, after most Iraqis had gone to bed. Artillery gave Saddam a 101-gun salute at the ceremony on Tuesday. *(Reuter)*

Car boom brings Moscow traffic to a standstill

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

FROM the elegant, tree-lined boulevards of Moscow's centre to the eight-lane highways that dissect the city, the Russian capital is grinding to a halt.

Groaning under the strain of thousands of new cars arriving on the streets each week, Moscow's chaotic traffic system is in danger of becoming gridlocked from one bumper-to-bumper rush hour to the next.

"We already have about 1.5 million vehicles on the road in Moscow," a transport official said. "The bad news is that the number is increasing by about 200,000 a year. We cannot cope."

The problem is partly due to construction work in the city centre, which has blocked off key intersections and brought the rest of the capital to a standstill. Aggravating the situation are Soviet-era practices which continue to rule the streets; the strict road hierarchy, which if anything has become worse since the collapse of the one-party state.

As in the Brezhnev era, convoys of black Zil limousines and Mercedes escorts carrying President Yeltsin and other leaders to work travel on roads cleared of other traffic by the police.

The "automotive-age food chain", as one local columnist described it, persists. Top bureaucrats and rich bankers expect to be able to push to the front of a line of cars by virtue of their status. "The Zhiguli (Lada) defers to the Niva, which gives right of way to the Volga, which gets cut off by the Ford Escort, which gets driven off the road by the Volvo, which gets blown to smithereens by the inevitable Mercedes-Benz," wrote Daisy Sindelar in the *Moscow Times*. "Pedestrians don't stand a chance."

Added to the irritation caused by highway elitism is the chronic state of most of the city's roads. Although Yuri Luzhkov, the Mayor of Moscow, can take credit for improving the condition of some streets, the newly surfaced stretches of highway appear to be concentrated along routes used most frequently by the Kremlin elite.

For the rest of the city the sight of a road repair crew is a distant memory. Earlier this year the situation became so serious that a local newspaper ran a "Miss Pothole" competition, asking readers to send in photographs of the city's largest holes, some of them big enough to swallow a small car and still have room for a motorcycle or two.

To get round the nightmare on the roads, Muscovites have the alternative of going under or over the congested streets. But the Moscow Metro, once the pride of socialist mass transport, is stretched to capacity. Delays are now so common that the authorities provide written explanations about delays to long-suffering commuters, whose bosses no longer believe their excuses for being late for work so often.

The other option, to soar above the problem, is still in its infancy. Vertikal-T, a new company with six Mi8 transport helicopters, provides a shuttle service between Moscow's three airports and two points near the city centre.

UN staff feel the burden of red tape

FROM PETER CAPELLA
IN GENEVA

UNITED NATIONS employees feel they are working in a nepotistic environment dominated by excessive bureaucracy and political pressure, but remain motivated by a universal ideal, according to a worldwide survey by UN staff. Of the 4,252 employees who responded, 62 per cent said that bureaucracy was the organisation's main weakness.

Seventy per cent said recruitment procedures failed to hire the best candidates. Two-thirds, including some of the organisation's directors, felt that having "good friends" was the main factor in career advancement.

But directors were less enthusiastic about a proposal by 71 per cent that they would like to evaluate their supervisors. One respondent said: "The UN should not be a ship with several decks, where some get suntanned and others work."

But the first attempt to draw a picture of UN staff shows that, despite being demoralised by bureaucracy, political meddling by states, and the lack of money, they appear to be driven by an overwhelming belief in their mission. Only 12 per cent claim to be there because of the pay.

But staff have doubts about the effectiveness of the world body, especially in the areas of the environment, human rights and development.

Heidi MacLean, a private consultant advising on UN reform, said: "The whole organisation is at a crossroads . . . of needing to move beyond talking about change, to actually achieving it."

Spain's trial run for juries wins praise

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

THE first trial by jury in Spain was pronounced a success yesterday after judges from 19 regional courts attended a rehearsal in Majorca.

A test jury of nine men and two women found a 22-year-old man guilty of killing a businessman, 60. But the jury agreed there were extenuating circumstances as the victim had sexually attacked the accused, who was drunk.

There was applause after the verdict was announced. In reality, a tribunal of three judges will decide the fate of the accused, but after November 23 one judge and a jury of nine will try similar cases in Spain's regional courts.

Miguel Cid, an adviser to the Justice Ministry, said the delay in introducing the jury system was because of fears that "the always slow, and at times incredibly slow and confused, judicial machine would be upset even more".

Three years ago a government survey showed that 47 per cent of potential jurors did not want to serve; only 19 per cent said they would do so gladly. In a country where corruption and bribery are a way of life and tax evasion is the national sport, Spaniards have always been reluctant to denounce their neighbours.

So far, 50,000 citizens aged over 18 have been selected for jury service. They can be excused only for a valid reason, such as senility or work pressures, and can be fined and even jailed for repeatedly refusing to serve. A month before call-up for a trial, 36 candidates will be sent a questionnaire on their private lives. A minimum of 20 people will be selected, then reduced to nine jurors plus two reserves. At least seven votes will be needed to convict and a 5-4 majority to acquit.

Cases that will be tried by jury include murder, manslaughter, abuse of public office, housebreaking and starting forest fires.

Moore: would be ready to repeat her actions

Star tried to help brother die

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

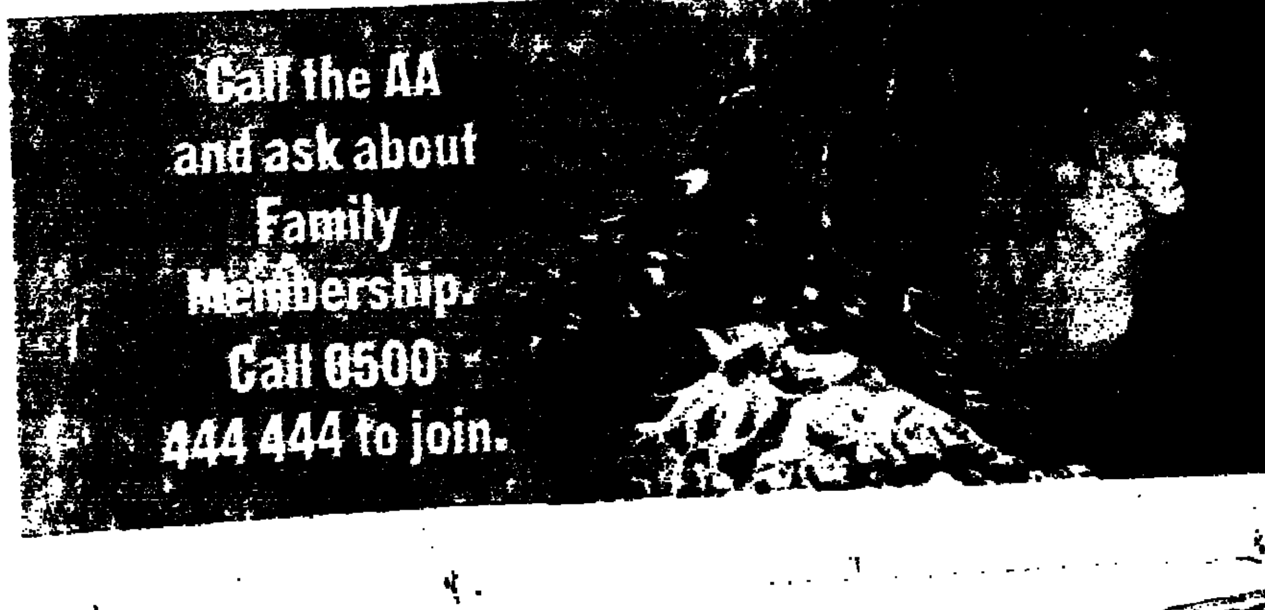
AN AMERICAN television presenter has stated that she tried to help her cancer-ridden brother die. Mary Tyler Moore, star of countless television shows since the 1950s, spoon-fed her brother ice cream into which she had mashed a potentially fatal mixture of pills.

The attempt to end her brother's life failed and he endured further pain before dying three months later. Miss Moore said, however, that she would do it again.

Miss Moore's announcement, in a forthcoming autobiography, stoked debate in America yesterday about euthanasia. Judie Brown, the president of the American Life League, expressed dismay that euthanaisa would be encouraged by Mary Tyler Moore's action. She said: "People need to know who is in charge of life and death, and that is God."

Roy R. Torcaso, the former president of the Hemlock Society and a veteran campaigner for "death with dignity" said: "It is horribly cruel to force people to endure unrelenting pain." He said that 73 per cent of adult Americans support the right to euthanasia. Of Miss Moore's attempt to kill her brother, he said: "People should not attempt this without adequate instruction."

In her book Miss Moore writes that her brother, John, was so ill with kidney cancer that "it was impossible to hug him — he hurt too much. He asked me to mash [the pills] into ice cream, the only food his stomach could tolerate." She and other family members sat by his bed with "a mixture of sadness, anticipated relief, and fury".



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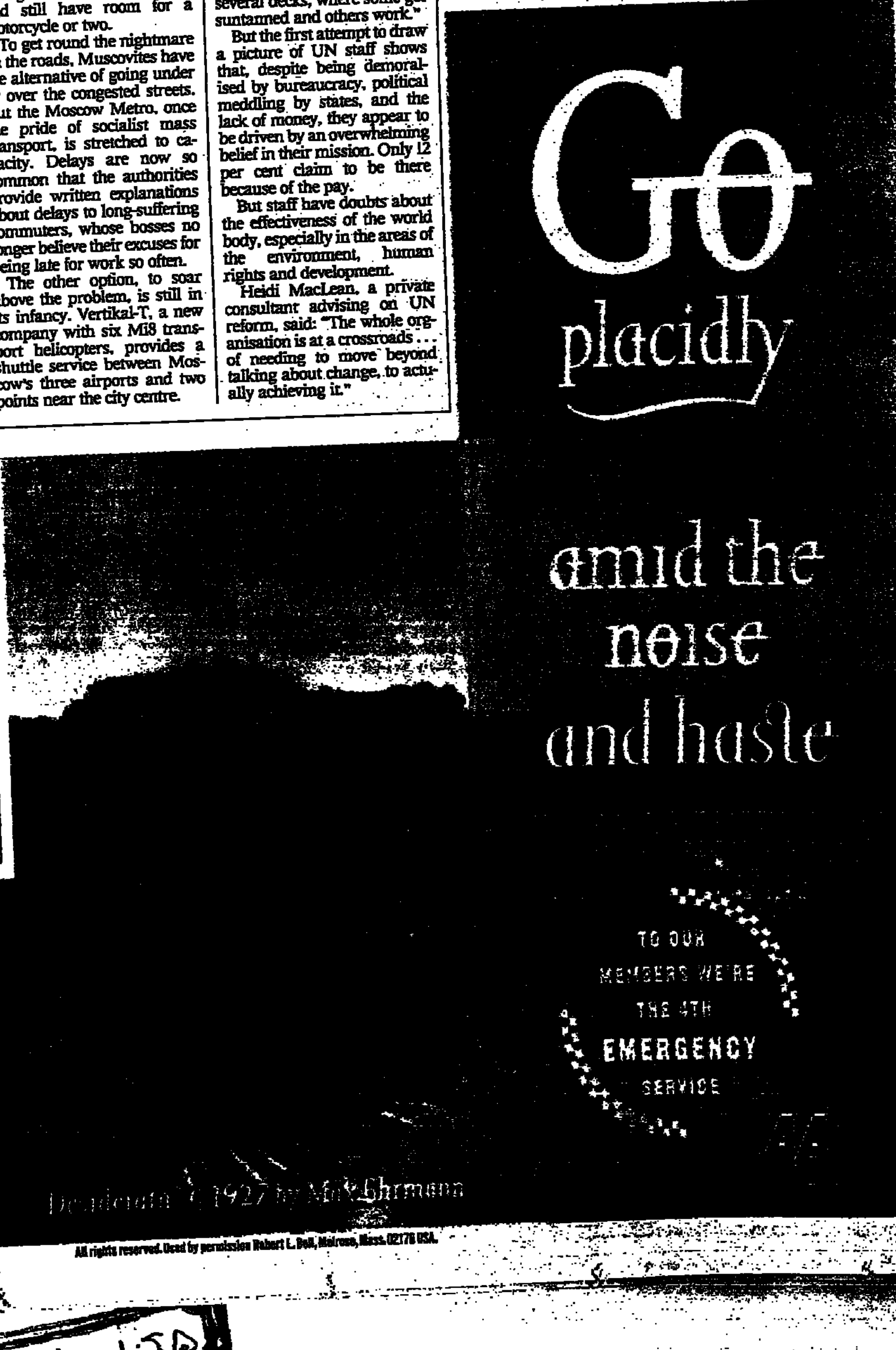

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How long-distance travellers can minimise jet lag ☐ A guide to the heart and liver ☐ Clues to fertility in the white cell count

Keeping up the rhythm

MEDICAL BRIEFING

◆

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

THE Medicines Control Agency, the organisation which supervises the use of drugs in Britain to ensure high standards of safety, has written to the suppliers of the synthetic hormone melatonin to warn them that in future it will be available only on prescription.

Melatonin is usually produced by the pineal gland, little bigger than a pea and tucked away under the brain. It is the only hormone thatthe gland produces.

The role of melatonin is uncertain and extravagant claims are made for its rejuvenating powers. The medical view is that melatonin probably governs circadian rhythm, the cyclical activities of the body which are often referred to as the body clock.

The body's timekeeping is badly disturbed by any travel across time zones and it is this disruption of circadian rhythm which it is thought accounts for jet lag. One of the popular, but unproven, methods of countering jet lag is to take additional melatonin before going to sleep; its advocates recommend that it should be taken for some days before travel, as well as when away.

Dr Michael Davies, director of health services for British Airways, does not share the confidence expressed in melatonin by a much travelled author, who returned to Britain this week after a ten-day tour in which she stayed in eight different cities, and zigzagged across North and South America, before coming back via Paris. The author swore that it was regular melatonin that saved her from jet lag and made her trip productive.

Dr Davies says: "Nobody knows why, or even if, melatonin is an efficient treatment for jet lag. The hormone does act as a mild hypnotic and it is possible that, by making certain that travellers sleep, their jet lag is reduced.

"We recommend that passengers who find it difficult to sleep while away should take a short-acting sleeping pill, one that has completely left the body in six to eight hours. This treatment seems every bit as effective as taking melatonin."

British Airways has considerable expertise in passenger health. Its advice on jet lag is that if a passenger arrives at a destination in daylight, he or she should not resist the urge to have a quick sleep if it has not been possible to take a nap on the aircraft. If the stay overseas is for less than four days Dr Davies says it is as well, if possible, to stay on home time; for longer periods the changeover to local time should be as fast as possible. If a passenger arrives at the destination at night, sleep is easier, but for the first night or two a sleeping pill may be needed.

BA also offers in-flight exercises as part of its "well-being in the air" programme. These are designed to keep the muscles moving and thereby reduce the remote possibility of suffering a deep vein thrombosis, and later a pulmonary embolism, a risk in any form of travel when the passenger is sitting for any length of time.

BA is now liaising with some hotels at its long-haul destinations to provide its holiday passengers with an anti-jet lag package of exercises and spa treatments after their long flight.

Risky drink

SOME people's lives are haunted by the possibility of a rise in the level of the liver enzyme, gamma-glutamyl transverase, the gamma-GT of the annual medical examination which is often taken as a benchmark of the liver's health, and therefore a guide to the amount a person is drinking. The authorities are also concerned by the gamma-GT level. Despite repeated warnings by doctors that too much alcohol is only one of many possible causes of increased gamma-GT, many politicians and court officials still equate it with over-indulgence.

The message that a raised gamma-GT isn't always related to liver disease is reinforced by research published in the American Journal of Epidemiology. The study, funded by the British Heart Foundation and carried out by Dr Goya Wannamethwe and her team at the Royal Free Hospital in London, found that only one man in five with a high gamma-GT was a heavy drinker.

Doctors are accustomed to calming the ruffled feathers of patients who, despite an alcohol intake which wouldn't disgrace a Methodist minister, have been warned not to drink so much. However, while the survey confirms that a patient with a high gamma-GT isn't necessarily a secret drinker, it does indicate an increased likelihood of a heart attack. Men with gamma-GTs in the top 20 per cent had a 40 per cent increased chance of a heart attack.

Baby boost

WHEN British astronauts were being selected to join the Russian space programme one of the tests demanded by the Soviet medical authorities was a prostatic smear. Prostatic fluid had to be massaged out of their prostates, and then examined under the microscope to check for the presence of white cells, indicative of pus and possible infection. The procedure is uncomfortable, sometimes painful, and not surprisingly the would-be pilots couldn't understand its relevance to space travel.

The white cell count, whether in semen or prostatic fluid, forms a large part of the total volume of the semen. It is of considerable relevance when a couple are finding conception difficult. This has recently been convincingly confirmed by research published in the Journal of Reproductive Medicine. When the doctors found that there was leucocytospermia, defined as more than 1 million white cells per ml, they treated both partners with doxycycline, a broad spectrum antibiotic which is particularly effective in penetrating prostatic tissue. The treatment was effective in two-thirds of the cases. In these men the count was reduced to normal levels. After six months more than half the female partners of the successfully treated men had conceived, but only 6 per cent of those women partnered by men who had not responded to doxycycline became pregnant.

PICTURES BY GRANT BATES AND ROBERT SLACK

The curse of the thick head may be over

New thinking and new surgical techniques have led to a revolution in the treatment of chronic sinusitis, says **Dr James Le Fanu**

ENT surgeon Grant Bates using a nasal endoscope

Robert Slack performs keyhole sinus surgery. The operation enormously improves the lives of sinusitis sufferers

Traditional remedies are often the best. So it is surprising how few people resort to inhalational therapy for the commonest of all ailments — the common cold. Ten minutes with a towel over the head, breathing in the steam from a flat pan of boiling water spiced with menthol, works like a miracle for unblocking the nasal passages. At the same time it prevents the most grievous complication of the cold — sinusitis.

The sinuses are large air-filled holes in the skull on either side of the nose, whose prime function is to humidify and warm air on its way down to the lungs, while filtering out bacteria, viruses and other particulate matter. By protecting the lungs from damage, however, the sinuses themselves are vulnerable to infection. Repeated attacks damage their lining, resulting in chronic sinusitis — a constant source of misery for those afflicted.

The sinuses become filled with a sort of infected glue that drips down the back of the nose, causing sufferers to wake in the morning with a vile taste in the mouth. They feel, and indeed are, "bunged up". The head feels heavy, headaches are common, and there is a curious deadening of mental function that makes it difficult to concentrate. To compound their misfortune patients often lose their sense of smell, and with it the ability to enjoy food — and not infrequently they give off an unpleasant odour, or halitosis, that is socially inhibiting.

But probably the worst problem for those with chronic sinusitis is that it has in the past been so difficult for both family doctors and ENT specialists to treat successfully. Such pessimism is no longer warranted. Ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeons now realise that the condition is not intractable and that past failures may have been due to a poor understanding of the working of the sinus. This has now been corrected and as a result "the treatment of chronic sinusitis has been revolutionised in the last decade", says Robert Slack, ENT specialist at the Royal United Hospital Bath. "Eighty-five per cent of patients can now expect to have a good or very good outcome."

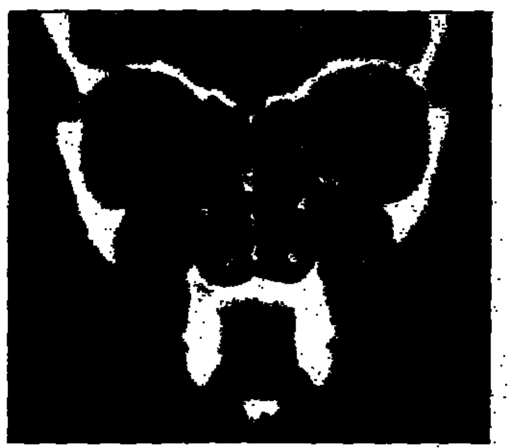
In order to appreciate the significance of this development, it is necessary to clarify the function of the sinuses. Air enters through an opening, or ostium, at the back of the nose and then circulates to the four main groups of sinuses. Bacteria and other particles are trapped in a fine layer of mucus on the inner surface of the sinuses and then expelled back out through the nose by the action of millions of minute hairs, or cilia, beating rhythmically about 700 times a minute. Damage to this mucociliary transport, as it is known, lies at the heart of chronic sinusitis.

If, for any reason, the opening into the sinuses is narrowed, this reduces the amount of air flowing through them, depriving the mucus lining of oxygen. This renders the mucus secretions more acidic, which in turn impairs the action of the cilia. A vicious circle then sets in where the sinuses become more vulnerable to infection and the mucociliary transport is further impaired so the infective organisms cannot be removed. "As the disease progresses the mucus lining becomes increasingly damaged, with a decrease in the rhythmic movement of the cilia to less than 300 beats per minute," says Kathryn Evans, consultant ENT surgeon at the Gloucester Royal Hospital.

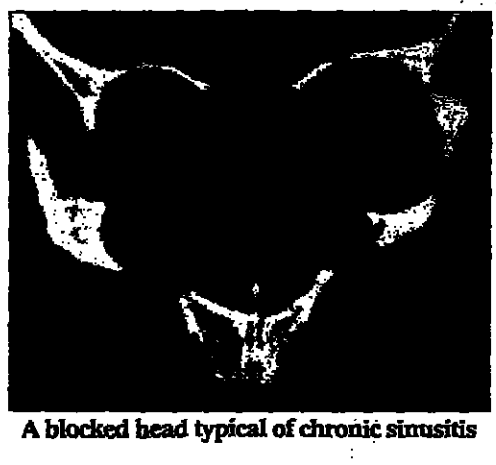
For almost a century ENT surgeons have sought to treat this problem with the Caldwell-Luc operation, named after its pioneers. This involves making a hole in the lower part of the sinuses, allowing them to drain with the help of gravity and at the same time stripping off the damaged lining of the sinuses themselves. The limitation of this approach has become clear as a result of two important technical advances which in turn have led to the revolution in treatment.

The first is the CT scanner, which has given surgeons a much better understanding of the anatomy of the sinuses and particularly the crucial part played by any narrowing or obstruction of the ostium in creating the vicious cycle of chronic sinusitis.

Second is the nasal endoscope, a thin metal tube which allows a thorough inspection of the inside to the nose all the way back to the pharynx. The consequent change in perception of the nature of the disease is summarised by David Kennedy, an ENT surgeon in Baltimore: "The conventional opinion has always been that the lining of the sinuses becomes irreversibly diseased and needs to be completely removed. But now we have come to realise that chronic sinusitis is primarily a disease of obstruction of the ostium."



CT scans: healthy sinuses, clear of infection



A blocked head typical of chronic sinusitis

The priority now is to relieve that obstruction, which is also performed through the endoscope — an operation known as Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery, or FESS. The ostium is directly seen and is widened by cutting away the tissue surrounding it. This enormously improves the ventilation of the sinuses and the damaged lining should then heal spontaneously. "After surgery it may take many months for the mucosal changes [damage to the lining of the sinuses] to reverse," said Dr Evans, "so supplementary treatments with regular inhalations, antibiotics and steroids will be necessary during this time."

Four years ago, on becoming a consultant in Bath, Robert Slack trained in the keyhole surgery necessary for FESS, and has been using this minimally invasive technique on patients ever since. He says that even though it may not be possible to relieve all the symptoms for those who have suffered from chronic sinusitis for many years, "there is absolutely no doubt that patients are doing a lot better than in the past".

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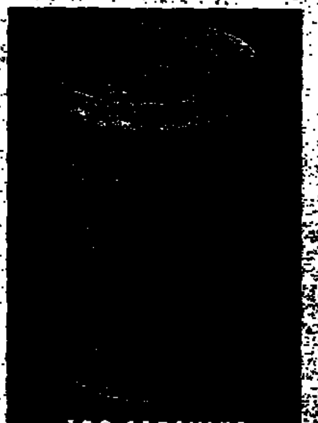

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Quentin Letts reports from New York on the fiftieth anniversary of the stewardesses' union

'We were the glamour people'

It used to be "Hi! I'm Nancy, fly me" as the gin trolley wobbled down the aisle five minutes after take-off and the DC-10 droned towards cruising altitude. American businessmen would select an airline on the prettiness of its hostesses, and smile appreciatively when the better endowed girls held out both arms to indicate emergency exits.

But the glamour has faded. High heels are no longer worn in-flight, the catering now seldom extends beyond a packet of nuts, and America's airline cabin staff are organised and ready to use their collective muscle. They have become the miners of the air.

Their trade union, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, this week celebrates its fiftieth birthday. It falls at a time of unprecedented growth but reduced profit margins and plainer service. Some 100,000 Americans now earn a living as flight attendants (it was only 57,000 in 1980), but the hours are long, the job is less fun, and their standing in American life has changed. Subsonic travel's glamorous adornments have become airborne safety officers.

The growth in numbers can be attributed to the deregulation of American airlines in the late Seventies, which allowed many smaller carriers to set up in business and, through competition, reduced fares on many routes. Two consequences were that airlines did not spend so much on frills, and flying became an affordable option for a wider group of people.

Modern airline staff tell horror stories about some passengers. A recent survey of employees at Northwest, Southwest and TWA described outbreaks of disgraceful behaviour. One man threw a plate of fish at stewardess Lori Roster when she told him that, sorry, she had run out of the pasta option. The denizens of economy class have also proved hungry litigants, be it suing when luggage drops out of overhead bins or trying to jolt an attendant's arm in the hope that hot coffee will be spilled and hefty compensation ensue from the scalding. Some airlines now serve coffee that is tepid to avoid such trouble.

Plainly, we have come some distance from the days when all male passengers dressed like Cary Grant, all women wore hats and carried handbags, and the captain addressed the passengers as "ladies and gentlemen" rather than "you folks".

> 'We were expected to marry some nice young passenger'

[redacted]

It was in the Sixties that the term "stewardess" yielded to "flight attendant" and airlines started to drop some of the strict requirements made of cabin staff. One of these was a compulsory retirement age of 32, and a bar on stewardesses marrying. Plumpness was also forbidden and, until last year, one airline retained a weight restriction for stewardesses. For instance, a woman of 5ft 5in, if less than 34 years old, was not meant to weigh more than 135lb. For women up to 55, this maximum weight became 144lb.

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants has chiselled away at its members' conditions. It negotiated on those high heels, and airlines eventually accepted that heels need be worn in airport concourses only, not on the plane. The association has badgered airlines over air quality on jets — it is cheaper to reduce the intake of fresh air, but that is not god for attendants' health. Another area of concern has been cabin crew's feet. All that standing up plays havoc with the corns.

Delta's first flight attendant, Laura Wizark, in 1940: five years later they had a union

There have been more serious developments, such as assaults on stewardesses by passengers. These have happened on budget and youth-market airlines whose attendants wear gym shoes and shorts and are encouraged to sit alongside passengers and chatter. "The trouble is, these attendants do not look as authoritative as they used to," says the association's Jill Gallagher. "The new uniforms are comfortable but they can lead to problems."

It was a different story in the Forties, when Edith Lauterbach was a stewardess with United Airlines and, one day, found herself looking after a planeload which included 21 sailors just back from the war. In the course of that DC-3 flight to Denver, she recalls, every single sailor proposed to her, separately. Every offer was graciously turned down. "We were the glamour people, I suppose, with elegant uniforms," says Miss Lauterbach, who recalls that in war-rationed America she would often be given presents of chocolate, scent or stockings by admiring GIs.

"It is harder work now, but modern attendants are paid well," Miss Lauterbach says. Pay, which currently averages about £23,300 a year, was the driving force when she and four stewardess colleagues founded the association in 1945. Some of the women are getting together in California this week to mark the success of their organisation, which only last week secured a 17 per cent pay rise for a group of attendants and, in 1993, organised a strike at American Airlines which shocked the business. A more recent dispute at Alaska Airlines has also seen withdrawal of labour, followed by an improved contract offer.

Miss Lauterbach recalls that in her day most of the women in the business came from middle-class homes where the father was probably of managerial rank and disapproved of strikes. "It was hard to sign up some of the girls," she says. The founder of United, William Patterson, regarded stewardesses in an almost paternal manner. "We were supposed to work for a couple of years. Then he expected us to get married to some nice young man," she says.

Mid-air safety training was non-existent, and there were no male cabin attendants. But there was that certain chic which attached itself to air travel. People still had wonder in their eyes, but as that wonder has receded, so has the flair of in-flight service.

"The job is now less enjoyable," concedes Ms Gallagher. "Attendants feel they do not have as much time to get to know the passengers." Mind you, given the ill-mannered passengers you tend to get in the air these days, that may not be such a bad thing.

The racing driver will soon be patrolling a new beat, as **Giles Coren** discovers

Why Nigel Mansell wants to be Special

Special constable Nigel Mansell

Nigel Mansell always wanted to be a policeman. You could tell by the moustache and the chummy demeanour. It is easy to imagine him flexing his knees and saying "'ello, 'ello, 'ello". For Mansell is a throwback to the days when robbers wore stripy shirts and carried bags marked "swag".

Thus it was a great coup for a nostalgic government when Britain's greatest racing driver of the modern age, and a Tory to boot, was sworn in as a special constable in Exeter yesterday, responding to recent calls for 10,000 new recruits.

The organisation has indeed seen better days. It was in 1673 that an Act of Parliament first allowed local JPs to appoint special constables, and by 1848 the Government could call on 170,000 Specials to police the Chartist upheavals. A similar number turned out during the Fenian alarm of the 1860s. But numbers have fallen from 130,000 at the turn of this century to only 20,000 today.

Such a high-profile recruit can only help the cause, as Mansell joins a short but distinguished list of Specials that includes agriculture minister Douglas Hogg, former Treasury minister Jonathan Aitken, and Rillington Place murderer John Christie. The appointment of Christie tended to enforce the old music hall refrain that "you can't trust a Special like an old time copper".

It has already been established that Mansell will not be bringing his formidable driving skills to the force. But, as the Commandant of the Special Constables in Devon and Cornwall, Max Andrews, says: "Mansell will not be a special Special, just a Special."

Why, then, is he doing it? "He is expressing his desire to serve the community," the Commandant says. "He is someone who is prepared to stand up and be counted, which is all we require from a recruit. That, and their spare time."

But won't there be problems with his celebrity? "By the time he actually goes out on patrol," Mr Andrews says, "people will have forgotten all about it. They may not even recognise him. At the moment, kids are probably going up to every policeman in the country and asking him if he is Nigel Mansell." This, as we already know, is because all policemen look like Nigel Mansell.

The same cannot be said of Elvis Presley. But the King was indeed a sort of voluntary policeman. An obsessive collector of police badges, the only way he could procure a badge of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs was by joining it. In a famous meeting with President Nixon, a badge was sent for, and Elvis became an honorary deputy.

Mansell is not a known collector. It is more likely that he saw the story of Mike Carr, the teacher and special constable who was instrumental in recapturing the Parkhurst escapers in January, and dreamt of glories beyond the race track.

At any rate, there is one thing for which he is particularly well qualified: the delivery of every traffic cop's favourite line.

Thus motorists warmly anticipate the day when they are waved down for speeding on a busy high street, and a friendly, moustachioed face leans down to the open window to inquire: "Who do you think you are, Nigel Mansell?"

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AMNESTY WEEK 15 -22 OCTOBER

Goran was one of the first people in the former Yugoslavia to experience the nightmare of racial hatred.
He never lived to tell the tale.
Or did he?

Somehow you can tell just by looking at Goran that he was unlikely to be a desperado. He worked as an agricultural engineer in the small town of Vukovar, which before the conflict had a multi-ethnic population.

In November 1991, the town was overrun by Serb paramilitaries. Goran and his mother hid with other terrified townsfolk in a large cellar.

But the paramilitaries dragged them out and took them to a 'clearing centre' where people of different religions and ethnic groups were made to stand apart. And where women were separated from the men.

This heartless "selection" was the last time Goran's mother Ivanka saw her son. He was taken away in what was the first mass "disappearance" of former Yugoslavia.

Ivanka prays that her son is still alive and has tried without success to find out what became of him.

Since Goran vanished into the smoke of war, tens of thousands of other people in former Yugoslavia have simply "disappeared", leaving their families with an agony of hope and despair that can never die.

This is why Amnesty International works in Bosnia and other countries with families of those who have "disappeared". Please help.

You can do it by joining Amnesty International or by sending us a donation today.

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how many more deaths,
before you join us?

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Janet Daley

■ The European Court's ruling will be welcomed wherever real women rather than their spokespersons gather

Sexual discrimination in the job market is illegal: official. The *European Court of Justice* has agreed, rather startlingly, with Britain. The sense in which the Court is in accord with our law might be confusing to those who have *not been paying* attention. You may have been under a misapprehension about the Sex Discrimination Act of 1975. Passed at the high point of the febrile *tide of feminist protest*, wasn't that law intended to prevent prejudice against women in the work place?

And if the Act was all about making way for more women *in employment*, how can the European Court be *upholding* that law when it pronounces that women must not be given preference over equally qualified men? Simply because both the Act and the European Court are determined to prevent gender bias of *any kind*. And for a woman to be employed or promoted in preference to *her male counterpart* purely on the ground of her genital plumbing, is just as discriminatory as purblind bigotry against women. Being well-intentioned in your *favouritism does* not come into it. Unfairness is unfairness and it is all wrong.

The 1975 Act — with peculiar *foresight* considering that it was drafted in the heat of public passion — saw the looming prospect of positive discrimination and banned it. It anticipated that the eagerness to make up lost ground might tempt employers (or those who put pressure on them) to set quotas for women. And was it ever right. Particularly *in the* public sector — not to mention the Labour Party — the idea gained ground rapidly that deliberate steps were needed to right the inherited imbalance between men and women.

Strict *numerical* quotas were illegal in employment — but not in the Labour Party apparently — so the favouring of women (or ethnic minorities which *come under the same* statute) had to be carefully worded. Given two candidates of precisely equal qualification and experience, the female one could — it was thought — be given *preference* without contravening the law. Just how precisely equal two people can be in every respect except sex, is something of a mystery, of course. If you are determined to shoehorn *more women into*, say, senior management positions, then you may well interpret that equality rather loosely.

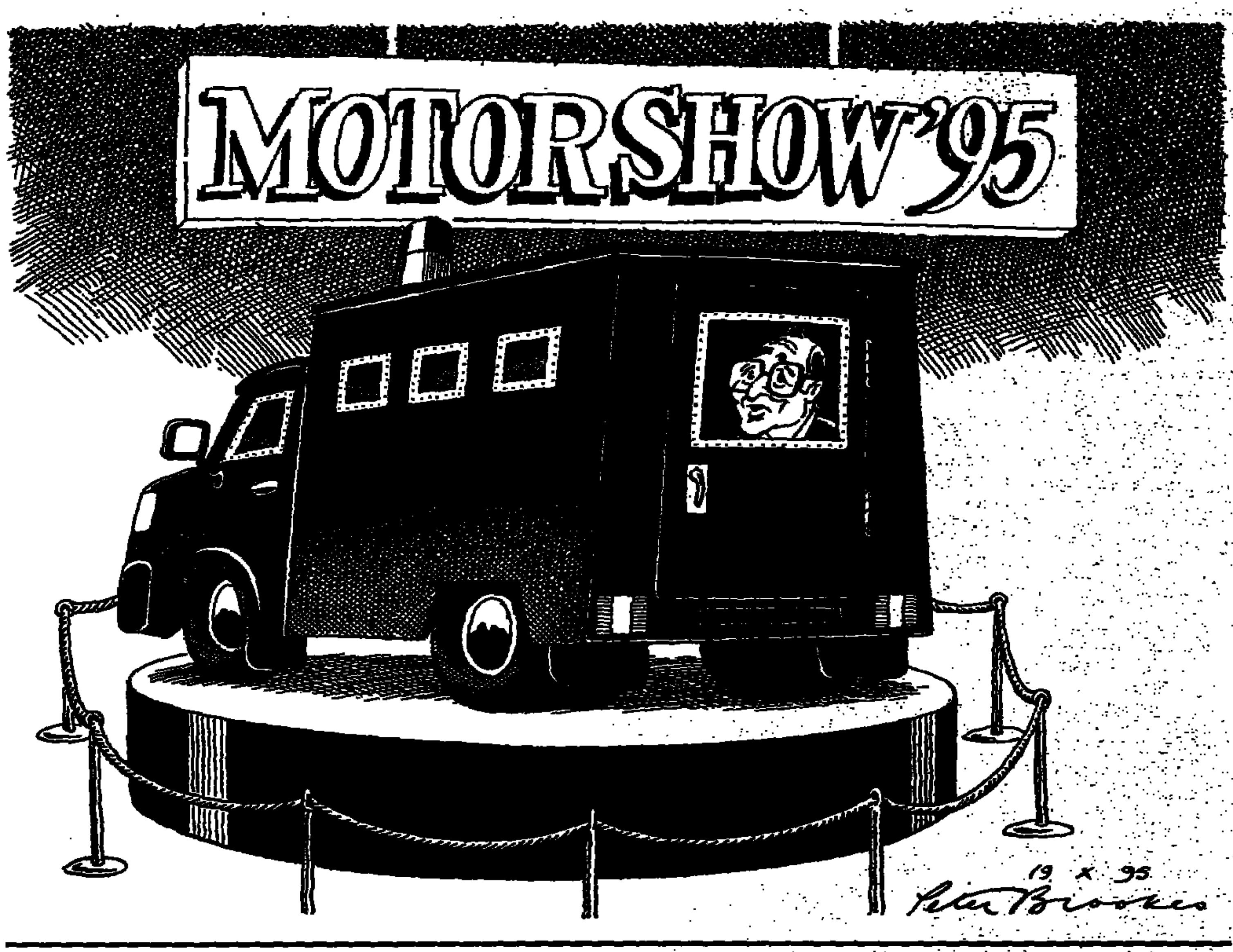
But however far it bent over backwards, that ploy *has now been ruled out by the European Court*. "Positive action" — a euphemism for reverse discrimination — is as illegal as its cruder stable mate, the numerical quota. This ruling will raise a *cheer wherever real* women — as opposed to female spokespersons — gather. Such women *do wish to be treated fairly*. They do not wish to be indulged or patronised and they are fully aware of the justified resentment that they *will* incur if they are allowed to leapfrog over their male colleagues. And even the ambitious among them have husbands or boyfriends, brothers or sons whose hopes and aspira*tions* are very *dear to them* and whose frustration they share when an expected promotion is snatched away and delivered into the hands of a *less able* (or no *more able*) *woman as a matter of policy*.

And real women have other worries about the plight of their men. It is not the economic future of young women which is *most perilous now but that* of young working-class males. This week's edition of *Panorama* was devoted to the growing discrepancy between the school perfor*mance and aspirations of* girls as opposed to boys. The deputy head of a comprehensive school was distraught by the underperformance of many of the *promising* boys in his school. Girls of similar ability applied themselves, worked hard and got *their qualifications* — determined to make something of their futures. But once the boys hit adolescence, they fell in with the local *lout culture and gave up on school* altogether.

> 'It is young working-class males who are in peril, not women'

Four particular boys who had shown real ability at 11, were followed through to their *present depressing fate*, either on the dole or employed in jobs that were well below their potential. They mumbled desultory regrets about making no effort at school, or about giving up low-paid *jobs so they could spend* all day in the pub with their mates. Meanwhile, the girls packed their bags for university and a better life.

What their saddened head did *not mention as he racked his brain* for an answer to this dilemma, was that 30 years ago those bright boys would probably have got through to a grammar school that would have pulled them decisively away *from their tribal defeatism*. Put into an atmosphere where achievement and ambition were part of the ethos, they might have won through. Boys are pack *animals. The desire* to be "*one of the lads*" has to be countered with unflinching authority if it is to have any effect. So great was the desire not to impose "middle-class values" on working-class children, that we discarded the discipline and incentives which made such boys fit for adult life. Girls are self-motivating. They can look after themselves — *and, it seems, they increasingly will have to*.



Howard's Home front

Issues of social order require moral thoughtfulness, not political rhetoric

William Rees-Mogg

Not for the first time, it is Judge Stephen Tumim who has pointed to the heart of the matter. The distinction between the "*policy*" and *the* "*operations*" *of the Prison Service* is indeed "bogus". If this is interpreted as meaning that the Home Secretary's aspirations are policy, but the consequences of his policy are operational, then it does indeed *follow* that Michael Howard *is* "not responsible for anything". *Inevitably*, the Home Secretary will be held responsible even if he does maintain that the people carrying out his policy are to blame. In the House of Commons today he has to satisfy Members of Parliament *that the prisons have been run properly* during his period of office and that he told Parliament the truth about the decision to remove the Governor of Parkhurst Prison.

Plainly this will be a difficult *debate* for Michael Howard. *I do not* think he will have to resign unless the Labour Party can conclusively prove that he has misled the House of Commons. At this stage, in this Parliament, with the Government *struggling* to recover after years of *unpopularity, it would be too damag*ing to lose a Home Secretary. The Prime Minister is standing behind Michael Howard and has little political option but to do so, though he must be very disappointed at this new set-back.

Beyond question, this has damaged the Government. Michael Howard is weakened because he has lost the confidence of most of the crime professionals, including many judges, many of the police, many chief constables, many prison gover*nors, and even senior civil servants.* Ministers are judged, in the first place, by those who work in their field. I cannot remember a Home Secretary who has had so little support from those who have observed his *policy decisions* at close *quarters. They did not think much of* David Waddington; they think even less of Michael Howard. If a Home Secretary loses the confidence of the professionals, that is bound to spread to Parliament, to the press and to the public.

Why has Michael Howard been so unsuccessful in keeping their support? The first criticism one hears is that he is too political. The Home Secretary must often, in the interests of justice or humanity, do things which are *not going to be politically* popular. The professionals believe that Michael Howard has put political popularity too far ahead of sound decision making. But they also consider that he is not a good politician, that he does not have the *sensitive antennae to tell him what* will be popular and what will be dangerous. A very political Home Secretary who is rather bad at politics can only be precariously balanced on the high wire of his office.

The Home Secretary has to deal with a wide variety *of different cases*, many of them with a *moral* dimension. He needs therefore to be sensitive not only to the morality of the issue but to the public sense of morality, which may not be *quite* the same thing. For more than 35 years now, the British law on prostitution has been determined by the Street Offences Act 1959, *which followed* a recommendation of the Wolfenden report. That Act made the moral distinction that prostitution cannot be prevented but that people do not want to see prostitutes accosting their clients in the streets; that is perhaps a shrewd tribute to the *national combination of* realism with discretion.

The Home Secretary at the time was Rab Butler. He was worried by the original proposal. He did not wish to appear to be condoning prostitution. The Lord Chief Justice of *the time, Lord Parker*, was *against it*. I remember Rab telling me how he had resolved the matter. He took his usual weekend train to his constituency. When he alighted at Saffron Walden he was greeted by the station master. *He took him aside and asked his opinion. The station master* considered that people did not mind prostitutes, but did not wish to see them in public places. Rab preferred the judgment of the station master to that of the Lord Chief Justice, and the Act was carried.

As Rab wrote to Harold *Macmillan*: "In its quaint and graceful traditions, and the variety of its problems, the Home Office is unique among Government departments."

Every Home Secretary needs his *own station master. Somehow he must* get an understanding of public feeling; that has never been the same thing as judging the mood of the Conservative Party conference. In 1958 Rab Butler wrote a minute to the Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, *which is quoted in Anthony* Howard's biography: "I am to answer 28 blood-thirsty resolutions at the Conservative Party conference at Blackpool. With the greatest difficulty we have chosen one out of the 28 which is at least moderate. *On this I can make a reasonably calming speech.*" *He* did make a calming speech, which was well received. He emphasised the importance of identifying the causes of crime.

Michael Howard *has never seemed* to want to calm the Conservative Party Conference, but rather to exploit its traditional feelings *to win its applause. The whole country shares the anxiety* about crime that is expressed at party conferences, but does not share the emotional mood. How best to counter crime, how best to determine sentencing policy, how to run the prisons or the police, seem *to the rest of us to be difficult questions, needing a lot of* information and thought. I remember Douglas Hurd, as Home Secretary and supported by his junior minister, John Patten, held a Home Office open day on crime. Those of us who attended came away with a *deeper understanding of the problems*, and an *even deeper respect* for those who have to deal with them. That day was as remote as could be from the atmosphere of Michael Howard and pointing a finger and saying: "If you don't want to do the *time, don't commit the crime* ..." If that sort of rhetoric were the solution, crime would have been abolished long ago.

In Britain the prison population is now about 50,000, which *happens to be approximately* the same number as that of the staff under the Home Office. Our total population is about 60 million, which means that one person in 1,200 is *in* prison at any one time. In the *United States*, there *are one million* people in prison, or one person in 250. Most American crime statistics are worse than ours; obviously a large prison population is likely to be one of the consequences of a high crime *rate, but there seems to be no evidence* that increasing the prison population actually reduces crime. There is a difficult problem of deciding the right sentence in each particular case; despite occasional lapses, British judges are rather good at *that; it is not an emotional issue*, but one of analysis and experience. No doubt some criminals ought to receive longer sentences, but a larger number should not be in prison at all. That is particularly true of women prisoners on minor offences.

In a letter to The Times on October 16, Lord Windlesham, who was chairman of the Parole Board in the 1980s, made a devastating criticism of Michael Howard's "two strikes and you're out" proposal. He showed from US experience that this would clog *up* the courts, increase the number of prisoners, and escalate the costs. People who have dealt professionally with these penal issues know that simple solutions which may appeal to the public when they are first heard often have damaging consequences *and* actually make things worse. We like to think that a Home Secretary, with all the research advice available to him, has really thought things through. Simplistic responses to the serious social evil of crime are not good enough.

The Home Office issues of social order require a moral thoughtfulness, a wisdom, in those responsible for dealing with them. If Michael Howard now finds himself almost alone, apart from his Cabinet colleagues who have little choice but to *back him up, it is because he has not* impressed people who know what the issues are with a capacity for nonpolitical seriousness. I am not sure that Jack Straw is any more convincing on the Labour side — he sounds like another "political" Home Secre*tary in the making. He makes* cheap points and uses disingenuous arguments.

Crime is one of the issues about which the public feels most strongly. The electorate would certainly repudiate a soft and permissive approach, *but expects an informed and serious* one. It is the job of a Home Secretary to educate the public about the real options. That is the way to build confidence in the fight against crime, and the only way to build public confidence in *the Home Secretary himself*.

Two tribes go to war

Paul Barker on who gains from assisted places

It is a battle for a better meritocracy. On education policy, John Major and Tony *Blair* have drawn their *lines in the sand*. They *are now going* to stand and fight till they drop, in the way bare-knuckle boxers used to, before the Queensberry Rules.

In Blair's speech at party conference, the most *striking educational* theme wasn't the laptop for every schoolchild (little use if they can't even read). It was his emphasis on "excellence" and "achievement". This was no Leveller's speech. All the same, he repeated Labour's *commitment* to abolish the assisted places scheme, under which bright children of poorer parents are state-funded to go to public school. The money, he said, would fund smaller primary classes. A neat equation.

John Major's speech to the Conservatives was just as meritocratic. But, unexpectedly, he confronted Blair head-on over assisted places. He didn't merely defend them. He said he would double them. The battle — a *highly symbolic one — is on*.

Though *it* dates back to 1981, the scheme is surprisingly little known. Local councils detest it, and put out no information to parents. On this level, Blair's attack resembles Barba*ra Castle's ferocious battle in the* 1970s to abolish NHS hospital pay-beds. It multiplied demand. Many people hadn't known they existed.

At present, about 5,000 pupils a year are chosen, on academic *merit*. Their bursaries are means-tested; nearly half go completely free. It was Mrs Thatcher's response to Labour's abolition of direct-grant schools. These schools, which took many bright local children in return for state funding, had been the leading edge of the state school system. They flew a proud banner. Twenty years ago, they were driven into the private sector. So far as I can see, to no one's advantage.

Manchester Grammar School flew the highest banner of all. *Now 280 out of its 1,450* boys are on assisted places. The high master, Martin Stephen, prides himself on his "wide social and ethnic mix — a true rainbow coalition". He adds: "Anything that allows us to admit more pupils on *academic merit, regardless of background, is to be welcomed.*"

Who benefits? A MORI poll found that the social groups who gained most were the lower middle class, and Asians. These may well be the same pupils: the children of Mr and Mrs Patel who run your corner shop. *An earlier study*, by Professor Tony Edwards, argued that the scheme wasn't reaching inner-city children. It depends which inner-city children you mean.

The scheme is also much used by parents from the depressed middle *class: teachers, vicars, divorced* mothers. But then, few people ever climbed the meritocratic ladder from near the bottom to near the top. On *Desert Island Discs* last Saturday, Richard Hoggart restated the psychological traumas of this journey upwards, which he first set out in *The Uses of Literacy*. *Still in print* after almost 40 years, this became one of the hot gospel texts of the drive towards comprehensive schools.

Now you can argue against assisted places on various grounds. Is it, for example, a good way to spend £104 *million in England and Wales*? But Blair's equation of abolition and smaller classes has been widely derided as economically illiterate. Pupils not funded at public schools must be educated by the State somewhere else. The *Times Educational Supplement says abolition* would release only £18.5 million in the first year.

Much of the objection is really an objection to public schools, and anything that buttresses them. But, as a meritocrat, you could argue for anything that stops the rival educational systems being a tribal divide.

Already the *bureaucratic homogeneity of state schools* is breaking down. David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, may say that in future no academic selection will be permitted. But such statements are not worth the air they are uttered *into*. On what grounds will Labour's "*foundation schools*" — Blair's version of opting out — *admit pupils*? And if selection is ever ruled out, nothing will do more to buttress the private sector.

It is an oddly unhistorical approach. As Labour's Education Secretary in the 1960s, Anthony Crosland launched the drive to abolish grammar schools, while leaving fee-paying schools alone. It gave public schools their biggest boost for decades. Do we want the same again?

In a meritocracy you need as many *steps* on the ladder as possible, with *steps* not too far apart. Today a volume of essays is published to honour the *eightieth birthday* of the sociologist Michael Young, whose satire *The Rise of the Meritocracy*, gave us a handy new term. For a while, "meritocracy" became a dirty word on the Left. Part of Blair's policy revolution has been to rescue it.

But the Prime Minister has perceived that Blair's proposed demolition of the assisted places scheme is a crucial flaw in his meritocratic argument.

Windy Sly

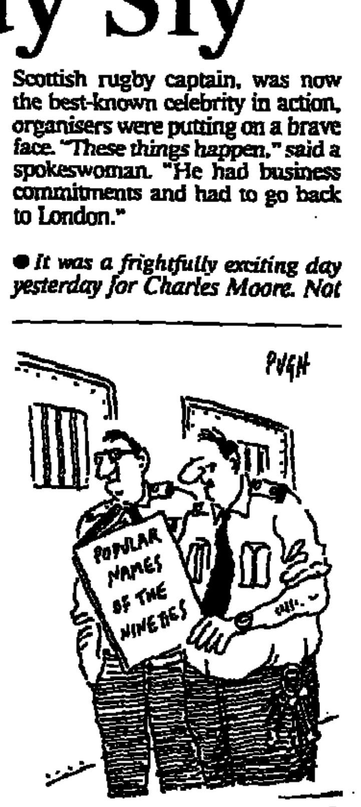
HE NEVER ducked a fight when he was Rocky or Rambo. But Sylvester Stallone's *last-minute decision to pull out of yesterday's pro*-am match at the Alfred Dunhill Cup at St Andrews astonished organisers and fans. Apparently he was too scared to perform.

The thought of playing for the first time in front of a large crowd *in windy conditions on the famous* Old Course got the better of him. He cancelled his appearance in a telephone call to the tournament director Peter German on Tuesday night but did not give a reason. This was all the more puzzling as he had played a practice round on the Old Course with his partner, the world number two Ernie Els, and acquitted himself admirably, scoring *a par on the notorious* 17th.

*But before he fled he comment*ed: "I've never played in a pro-am before. I'm scared. Scotland should be the world leaders in kitemaking. You could fly the whole country in this wind."

And of playing with Els, he added: "With him, you know you are going to lose, so there's no pressure on *you*." *As spectators were told that* Gavin Hastings, the Scottish rugby captain, was now the best-known celebrity in action, organisers were putting on a brave face. "*These things happen*," said a spokeswoman. "He had business commitments and had to go back to London."

● *It was a frightfully exciting day yesterday for Charles Moore. Not only was he appointed the Editor of* The Daily Telegraph, *but he also got stuck in the lift on his way to see the newspaper group's chairman, Conrad Black, before lunch. Although it meant he kept his guest, Douglas Hurd, waiting at the Savoy Grill for 15 minutes, the convivial nature of the lunch made up for his tardy arrival.*



PUGH
POPULAR NAMES OF THE NINETIES

"Howard's gone right out of fashion"

THE TIMES DIARY

A last toast

THE PORT and lemons were at *half mast* in Southport yesterday *after the news* broke of Red Rum's death. And no drinking spot was in deeper mourning than the Bold Hotel, where the Grand National winner once popped in for a drink himself.

Tommy Stack, the jockey who rode Red Rum to the third of his Grand National victories, was desolate *yesterday on hearing of the* champion hurdler's death. He took him to out drinking on the night of his victory in 1977. "The horse was invited into the hotel, and proceeded to walk up the steps and into the lobby for a drink," he said.

He has form

THE SACKED head of the Prison Service, Derek Lewis, who is now suing Michael Howard, was a *gawky schoolboy with remarkably* large feet *according to his contem*poraries at Wrekin College, in Shropshire. But he showed a resourceful flair from an early age.

A chap who shared a study with him explains. "We kept a gramophone in our study for a whole term and managed to keep the fact from the housemaster," he said. "*It was illegal, you see, and he was* part of the conspiracy. The record player was kept in a biscuit tin." Crumbs!

Lost love

JENNIFER EHLE, the actress who plays Elizabeth Bennet in the BBC's lavish production of *Pride and Prejudice*, has broken up with Colin Firth, who plays Mr Darcy. The love they found on set — the *kiss they share after the wedding* scene was considered by the film crew to be a deeply passionate exchange — has faded.

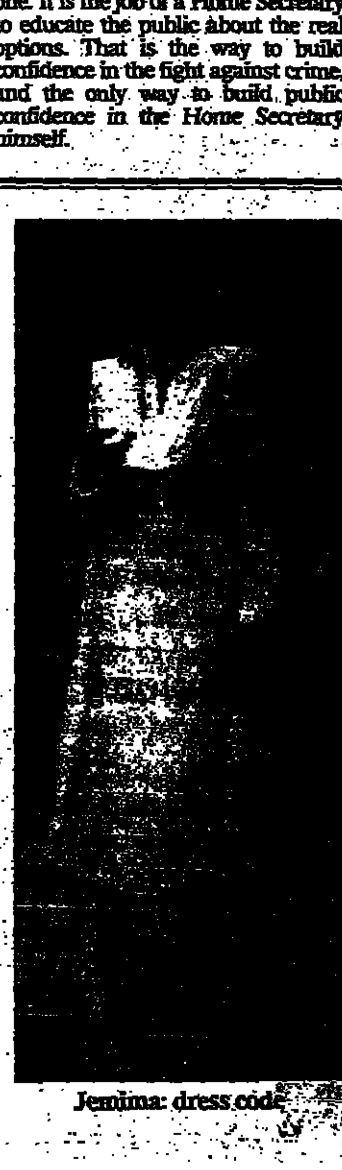
But not without great efforts on Firth's part. "He flew back from South Africa especially to try to *plead with her*," *says a fellow ac*tor. But in vain. Their last canoodle can be seen in the final episode of the BBC series on Sunday.

Khan do

THE DAPPER drapers of Lahore, where Jemima — now Jamila — Khan lives with Imran, are cashing in on the caravans of her student friends using her new home as a staging post as they back-pack around Pakistan. The dress code in Lahore is strict and in the Khan *residence visitors must* wear the *shalwar qamiz*, the tunic and pyjama bottoms that Jemima wore as her going-away outfit.

When the dusty rabble arrives, Jemima points them in the direction of a shop selling suitable clothes. Because of the new trade, prices for the outfits have risen from £60 *to* £300 *since* the marriage. It is doing wonders for the local economy.

P·H·S



Jemima: dress code

[illegible]

OCTOBER 19 1995

NUNN FOR NATO

A chance to break with old habits and rebuild Nato's strength

Whichever way the Belgian Parliament votes today, Willy Claes must either resign as Nato Secretary-General or be pushed through the exit and back to the morass of Belgian politics whence he came. His staying can only damage Nato further. As Mr Claes confronts his past — clouded by allegations of corruption, forgery and fraud related to arms contracts — Nato leaders need to cast a steadier eye on the alliance's future than they did when they appointed him 13 months ago. Nato is poised for tough challenges in Bosnia; ahead lie grand strategic decisions, on enlargement and on relations with Russia. Mr Claes's successor needs to be of exceptional stature and experience.

Nato will not find the right candidate unless its political masters first shed some bad old habits. Mr Claes got the job for all the worst reasons: because it was considered the "turn" of a small country, because of the convention that Nato's top administrator is a European — and because another Belgian, Jean-Luc Dehaene, had failed in his bid to head the European Commission. Ministers got what they deserved for treating the leadership of the world's most important military alliance as a political consolation prize.

Depressingly, Nato governments appear set to repeat last year's mistakes. They say that they want a political heavyweight. Yet the same names are circulating as last year. The only two who would carry weight where it most matters, in Washington and Moscow, are Douglas Hurd and Volker Ruehe, the German Defence Minister; but neither is thought to want the job. The rest are from small Nato countries: Ruud Lubbers, the former Prime Minister of The Netherlands and seemingly eternal candidate for international positions, the EU's Hans van den Broek and even the lacklustre Norwegian politician, Thorvald Stoltenberg. The front-runner, Denmark's Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, inspires only lukewarm enthusiasm — and none in France, which is furious over Denmark's opposition to French nuclear tests.

The absurdity of this situation is that only one obstacle stands between Nato and an outstanding new Secretary-General: the old taboo against an American. Ministers say that merit should come before nationality; now is the time to show that they mean it.

All other things being equal, the preference for a European is understandable for two reasons. The first is the equally firm tradition that Americans hold the two top military positions in Nato, that of Supreme Allied Commander and the Southern Europe command. The second is the French insistence that Nato must not be US-dominated, although this concern could be met by open selection for the Southern Europe command as well as the Secretary-Generalship.

All things, however, are not equal. There is at least one possible American who would do more to strengthen Nato's strategic vision and its Atlanticist bedrock than all the available Europeans put together. The most obvious is Senator Sam Nunn, the ranking Democrat on the congressional Armed Services Committee who recently announced that he will not seek a fifth term.

Since the post-Vietnam days , Senator Nunn has been Nato's most formidable, although not uncritical, defender on the Hill. He has a reputation for expertise in military matters, for independence of mind and for the ability to pick his issues carefully and probe deeply. He has a talent for reaching across party lines to build agreement on defence policy. He has given deep study to relations with Moscow. On enlargement, the other great issue before Nato, he is a realist who is determined that nothing should weaken Nato as a military, rather than a "political or psychological" alliance.

Support for such a break with precedent cannot be built overnight and ministers will be tempted, in view of the imminent Bosnia operation, to fill the post immediately. They should think twice. Nato can survive a temporary vacuum better than another weak appointment. In Bill Clinton, America has the least Atlanticist President since the war. Without a firm US commitment to European security, Nato has no future. Sam Nunn could bridge the widening Atlantic. Britain should set out to persuade Nato to beat a path to the senator's door.

GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE REFORM

Opposition to Mackay's proposals is misguided

The row that is brewing in the Conservative Party over the reform of divorce law is based upon a fundamental misconception. Those who oppose Lord Mackay of Clashfern's proposed Bill are convinced that it will make divorce easier. In at least three-quarters of cases, it will actually make divorce harder. There is a danger of a sensible, compassionate, family-orientated measure being derailed by a group that seems wilfully to misunderstand the nature of the proposals.

The current system of divorce law has nothing to recommend it. Although it provides for a two-year separation before husbands and wives can legally part, this provision is used by very few couples. The vast majority, 75 per cent, instead go for "quickie" divorces. As long as they can prove unreasonable behaviour or adultery, they can win a divorce in as little as three to four months. Usually the divorce goes through before the finances are sorted out and before agreement has been reached over the children.

The result is that couples who begin divorce proceedings in a relatively amicable mood can rarely avoid ending them in rancour. Accusations fly across the courtroom in an attempt to persuade the bench that one partner's behaviour was unreasonable or that another's was unfaithful. The intervention of lawyers acting for each side is bound to inflame the acrimony, given the adversarial nature of their job.

Some couples go to their lawyers still unsure about whether they really want a divorce. But the legal system carries them along, like a wave in the sea, towards inevitable parting. A study of divorcees by Davis and Murch in 1988 found that 51 per cent of divorced men and 29 per cent of divorced women would have preferred to have stayed married. The authors reported that "some couples have sought legal advice in response to what they regard as a marital crisis rather than a breakdown" and that "many people simply do not know whether their marriage is at an end; indeed they may be using the legal system as a way of finding out."

The advantage of the Lord Chancellor's proposals is that they allow for a compulsory year before divorce proceedings could start. During this pause for reflection, couples would be encouraged to use the services of a mediator, who would seek to calm tempers rather than stir up animosity between the two sides. Some couples might well decide not to go through with the divorce. Others would at least be able to settle arguments about money and children before they finally went to court. A divorce would not be granted until these matters were agreed.

The Lord Chancellor cannot legislate away conflict between two people. But the current system seems to legislate for conflict. The proposed Bill would lengthen the average time taken for a divorce to be granted and would remove much of the confrontation that currently takes place. Most important, it would put children first.

John Patten, the former Education Secretary, has led the opposition to this Bill, claiming that every change to divorce law has increased the number of subsequent divorces. That is because every change to the divorce law has made divorce easier. This change would make it harder for most people and would make them ponder before doing something that they might later regret. There is every reason why the Government should allow a free vote on divorce. But no MP should oppose this humane measure on misunderstood grounds.

RARA AVIS

When 'Connie' met 'Archie': old birds from the Jurassic age

Birds, believe it or not, are the best-known animal group: the taxonomy of their living species and subspecies is considered by zoologists to be fuller than that of mammals and reptiles. But curiously, their fossil record is the poorest by far, perhaps because so many of the earliest birds are thought to have perished at sea. Imagine the excitement among paleo-twitchers, therefore, at the discovery in a remote Chinese province of fossilised avian remains from the Jurassic age.

As a team of Chinese and American scholars writes in today's issue of *Nature*, the latest fossil provides evidence of a bird-type which is almost as old as the oldest so far encountered. That title belongs of course to the *Archaeopteryx lithographica* — as every scrapbook-wielding schoolchild of another age would have been able to tell you. The venerable "Archie" now has company: and with the Linnean poetry at which all good scientists are skilled, the new old bird has been named *Confuciusornis sanctus*, or the Holy Confucius Bird. Let us call her "Connie" for short.

The discovery of Connie in northeastern China, however, seems to have queered Archie's flight-path a bit. He, poor fossil, may still be the bird who goes back furthest, so far as our textbooks know; but Connie's uncovering suggests that there are likely to be other, yet undiscovered birds, which predated Archie by many years. What a loss of dignity there would be in a decline from the oldest bird to mere quondam.

Connie, although only a few years younger than Archie, was a vastly better-designed sort of bird — a *Spitfire*, as it were, to Archie's Sopwith Camel. Doctors Hou, Zhou, Martin and Feduccia — the *Nature* bird quartet — suggest cautiously that this could be explained in one of two ways. Either birds like Connie evolved from primitive to less primitive at a pace more rapid than the evolution which occurred in other life-forms or — and this is where heart's will break or leap — there was "a long but undiscovered pre-*Archeopteryx* episode in aviation".

Commonsense reasoning (based on an observation of the speed at which mammals evolved, say, or plants did) suggests that those who bet on paleo-matters would be taking a risk with the first option: "an unexpected, rapid departure from the primitive avian condition to a more derived morphology" does not make an attractive scientific argument. There must have been an older bird. Archie's days on the highest perch, we fear, are numbered. Blame it all on Connie.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prisons chief and the Home Secretary's responsibilities

From the General Secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants

Sir, Your leading article today, "Out of prison: Howard sacks his executive agent", states that the departure of Derek Lewis as Director-General of the Prison Service yesterday was "as inevitable as it was overdue".

Mr Lewis has met every performance criterion set by this Home Secretary and achieved a reduction of 75 per cent in the escape rates from UK prisons. Deplorable as the outbreaks from Whitemoor and Parkhurst were, Sir John Learmont is right to acknowledge that no prison system can guarantee to keep all those inside who should stay there. No Home Secretary has ever secured the enormous resources necessary.

However, this Home Secretary has sought to embrace the credit for all the achievements of the Prison Service, whilst distancing himself from all the failures. He has done it through two principal means. He claims, first of all, that there is a clear division between his responsibility for the policy of the Prison Service, and the Director-General's for the operation of the service. He further claims that his responsibilities, in any case, only extend as far as being accountable to the House of Commons by explaining what happens in the Prison Service.

On both counts he is incorrect. *Questions of Procedure for Ministers*, published by the Cabinet Office in 1992, makes it clear that he, and all ministers, are both responsible for the conduct of their departments *and* accountable for those departments.

So Mr Howard, whether he acknowledges it or not, is responsible for both the policy and the conduct of the Prison Service. Moreover, the division he has sought to draw between the two is self-evidently untenable. Prison Service policy must be obvious to everyone. It is to keep those who are convicted inside prisons. We do not need a Home Secretary to tell us that, but we do need one to tell us how he proposes to do it.

Yours sincerely,
ELIZABETH SYMONS,
General Secretary,
The Association of First Division Civil Servants,
2 Caxton Street, SW1.
October 17.

From Mr Robin Estridge

Sir, As a prison board of visitors member for well over twenty years, I find it extraordinary that the Home Secretary can avoid responsibility for the present state of the Prison Service. Frequent changes of minister, frequent changes of policy, have led to complete confusion of endeavour. Only the loyalty and professionalism of the Prison Service staff has avoided a catastrophe.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN ESTRIDGE,
Whins Brow, Macclesfield Road,
Alderley Edge, Cheshire.
October 17.

From Mr Edward A. Hackford

Sir, Pharaoh asked them to make bricks without straw. Moses pointed out such a policy would affect productivity and quality. Pharaoh dismissed it as an operational, not a policy, issue.

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD HACKFORD,
7 Homewood Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Philip M. Lidgate

Sir, Your leading article calls for more communication within the Prison Service. The *Learmont* graphic on the front page of your earlier editions, comparing the height of the pile of correspondence received by our prisons in three months with that of Ben Nevis, would indicate there is already far too much.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP M. LIDGATE,
Flat 2, 43 Branksome Wood Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset.
October 17.

From Sir Ian Morrow

Sir, In the corridors of power it is whispered: "The minister must be credible whatever the cost."

Yours truly,
IAN MORROW,
2 Albert Terrace Mews, NW1.
October 17.

From Mr Peter Tarrant-Willis

Sir, If power without responsibility is the prerogative of the harlot down the ages, what is power without blame?

Yours faithfully,
PETER TARRANT-WILLIS,
108 Mill Lane, NW6.

From Mrs Eslyn Craven

Sir, I think Jack Straw is very foolish to press for the resignation of Michael Howard (report, October 17). Doesn't he realise that Howard is the Labour Party's biggest asset?

Yours sincerely,
ESLYN CRAVEN,
Keepers Cottage,
Lanrick, Doune, Perthshire.
October 17.

Attempt to cut crime with tougher sentencing policies

From His Honour Joseph Dean

Sir, It seems unwise to reject out of hand Michael Howard's proposals (reports, October 13) to put a bit more backbone into the criminal justice system — so long the victim of the penal reform movement.

Between 1975 and 1987, when I sat as a Crown Court judge, we were summoned regularly to a suburban polytechnic for a ritual brainwashing. This would include an address by a prominent member of the penological enlightenment, urging us not to send defendants to prison or, if we did, only for the shortest time.

Judging by their regular reduction of sentences, this objective was then supported by the Court of Appeal. At one point we received a message from that court that all sentences of up to 18 months were going to be halved, but we should not be dismayed.

The same objective was promoted by a succession of Criminal Justice Acts, culminating in the notorious 1991 Act, which threatened to put the criminal courts out of business and had to be hurriedly repealed. The Home Office made its contribution to these initiatives by enlarging remission and parole and easing the pains and penalties of prison life.

It was all well meant. But it has not worked. For whatever may be the mixture of reasons, crime has increased beyond all imagining. In this state of affairs serious proposals to try to improve the position should be considered seriously, even at the risk of some bonfire of judicial vanities.

It is hardly realistic to assume that criminals will be deterred, and only deterred, by the likelihood of being caught, when they (like the public at large) believe that the likely consequence of being caught will be a sentence that is manifestly non-deterring.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH DEAN,
The Hall,
West Brabourne, Ashford, Kent.
October 14.

From Mr Neville Goldrein

Sir, There is a popular and widely-held misconception that most convicted criminals are sent to prison, and many people are therefore surprised that after suffering that penalty a substantial proportion re-offend.

During the 1970s and 1980s, when I sat as a deputy circuit judge, I found that the vast majority of offenders had been through the gamut of cautions, probation, community service, fines, and a good deal of counselling before they were eventually incarcerated. I have no doubt that this is still the case.

During the course of all those stages the one-off offenders, the occasional delinquents, the "spur-of-the-moment" offenders, are sifted out. Many of them never re-offend: they have had their "frightener" and that is a sufficient deterrent. Some of them need to have this experience more than once, going up the punishment ladder, before learning a lesson.

That is why the proportion of recidivists is higher than people expect. The offender has become accustomed to a life with criminal episodes, all else seems to have failed, no advice or counselling seems to have been heeded, and so he is locked up. The threat of prison has not been, in many cases, even a deterrent. It is merely a gamble that has not come off — unless the term itself is substantial.

But if the prospect is of a longer sentence, and in some cases a mandatory one, then the deterrent becomes progressively more real. A short term is a new experience and perhaps just tolerable, a long term is a grim prospect. Thus I believe that the Home Secretary's proposals to make prison into a true deterrent may indeed help not to increase but to reduce the prison population.

There is one other most important aspect from the viewpoint of the victim — and all of us who are potential victims. As the Home Secretary himself suggested at Blackpool last week, when offenders are in they are not out.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
NEVILLE GOLDREIN,
Torreno, St Andrew's Road,
Blundellsands, Liverpool 23.
October 17.

From His Honour Judge Victor Watts

Sir, "A mandatory life sentence" may have the right ring for a Conservative Party conference. But it means that people who have neither seen nor heard the victims or the witnesses, and have not listened to the arguments addressed at the trial, will largely determine the time actually served. Further, the reality will be that the time served will rarely bear sensible relation to the label attached to the sentence.

This is not justice. It is window-dressing of the most transparent kind.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR WATTS,
28 Abinger Road, Bedford Park, W4.

India's VC hero

From Mr John B. McGarr

Sir, Umrao Singh, VC, has been guaranteed a £1,200 per year increase on his £100 per year VC pension. Mr Nick Leeson is to sell his life story for £450,000.

The juxtaposition of these two facts on your front page (October 14) serves to underline a sad reality about our society's values.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN B. McGARR,
12 Redhill Wood,
New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent.
October 17.

From Major-General J. D. Lunt

Sir, Umrao Singh, VC, late Indian Artillery, is correctly portrayed in your photograph this morning as wearing the badges of rank of a subahdar: he is certainly not a havildar (sergeant), as stated in your report.

He became a viceroy's commissioned officer (junior commissioned officer since independence) and held the highest attainable rank in that category when he went on pension as a subahdar-major and honorary lieutenant. He was a havildar when he won his VC in Burma on December 15, 1944.

I am etc,
JAMES LUNT,
Hilltop House,
Little Milton, Oxfordshire.
October 16.

Business letters, page 29
Sports letters, page 44

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Tomorrow's Army

From Mr Alexander A. R. Ferguson

Sir, Your report on "'Soft teenagers' deterred by Army's tough image" (October 14) is wrong to lay the blame on the teenager and ignore the direct correlation that exists between the Army's under-recruitment and the closure of all junior entry units.

The single-entry system is not working. The minimum entry age of 16 years and nine months means that a gap may exist between leaving school and joining the infantry, during which young people can pursue other avenues of training, education or employment.

The traditional Army apprenticeship scheme is now under review and I understand that its replacement is unlikely to offer students the sort of training and qualifications that will attract them.

The junior entry scheme, set up in the 1950s and scrapped in 1993, together with the Army apprenticeship scheme was guaranteed to retain most graduates because they became part of the Army family at an early age. With the average age of entry now being 20, this advantage has been lost.

Unless the junior entry is resurrected and the Army apprenticeship scheme recognised as a proper apprenticeship, under-recruitment will persist if not worsen.

When will the MoD address this matter and accept that errors concerning its training base have been made and need to be rectified?

Yours faithfully,
A. FERGUSON
(Senior lecturer),
Army Apprentice College,
Harrogate,
North Yorkshire HG3 2SE.
October 14.

Smoking guidelines

From Dr Michael Russell

Sir, The revised guidelines on the *Duties of a Doctor* (reports, October 12) from the General Medical Council emphasise that it is the duty of doctors to help their patients rather than blame or punish them for behaviours such as smoking. It will no longer be acceptable for doctors to withhold treatment, such as bypass operations, from people who are unable, or even unwilling, to stop smoking.

Paradoxically, the one treatment for smokers which is formally banned under the NHS is precisely the one which will benefit them most — that is treatment to help them stop smoking.

Nicotine gum and patches are well proven to be the most effective treatment aids available, doubling smokers' chances of quitting successfully. Yet, despite the solid scientific evidence, government has decreed that these aids may not be prescribed under the NHS.

The briefest of interventions by doctors could do more than any other single measure to reduce the prevalence of smoking. The GMC guidelines will have a major influence on activating doctors to advise the use of nicotine-replacement therapy for addicted smokers who want to stop, although they would have to pay for it themselves. Could the GMC perhaps persuade the Government to lift its ban on use of NHS prescriptions for effective treatments for smokers?

Yours faithfully,
M. A. H. RUSSELL,
Professor of Addiction,
Institute of Psychiatry,
The Maudsley Hospital,
Denmark Hill, SE5.

Qualities needed for modern hymns

From Canon Michael Saward

Sir, St Paul distinguished "psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs" (Ephesians v, 19 and Colossians iii, 16) but, regrettably, today few people seem to be aware of the difference. The new *Methodist* book (report and leading article, October 14) is, for the most part, a book of songs for small children. It doesn't purport to be a hymnbook.

A recent definition says that "a hymn is a series of connected verses, usually addressed in worship to one or all of the Persons of the Holy Trinity, logically developing a Christian theme, usually in metrical and rhyming form, to a tune capable of being sung by a congregation". Not much room for moo-cows there.

There are at least 150 modern hymns of real quality which have been written since 1960. As a hymnbook editor I have read well over 2,000 modern texts, no more than 10 per cent of which have any real merit. Perhaps only 20 will last for a century. Quality hymn-writing has always been rare, and every known hymnbook has sub-standard hymns.

Thus the issue is not a confrontation between traditional hymns versus modern songs, but whether or not churches and worshippers will learn to accept the validity of St Paul's valuable distinction and to seek outstanding examples of all three categories.

Incidentally, it wasn't John Wesley who wrote 6,000 hymns. It was his younger brother Charles.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAWARD
(Canon Treasurer,
St Paul's Cathedral),
6 Amen Court, EC4.
October 14.

From the Team Vicar, Tenbury Wells Team Ministry

Sir, Your leader reminds me of a hymn which was known as the Spinster's Prayer. It contained the line: "Give me a man-, Give me a man-, *Give me a mansion in the sky.*"

Yours faithfully,
COLIN V. HUTT,
Old Yew Tree Farmhouse,
Ashford Bowdler,
Ludlow, Shropshire.

Veterinary troubles

From Dr Peter D. Rossdale

Sir, Clinical teaching of undergraduates at university veterinary schools (letter, October 16) depends upon the very substantial resources required for the handling of cases, especially those of large animals — resources which are now becoming increasingly available in the private sector, staffed by young, highly trained and competent clinicians.

If this teaching were to be made available in the veterinary hospitals of the private sector, particularly in the fields of equine and canine medicine and surgery, the resources now devoted to maintaining hospitals run by university veterinary schools could be channelled into the teaching facilities of academic science and research, and undergraduates would be exposed to front-line rather than referral conditions.

Yours faithfully,
PETER D. ROSSDALE,
Beaufort Cottage Laboratories,
High Street, Newmarket, Suffolk.
October 16.

Ursula Wyndham

From Mr David Liddle

Sir, In the mid-1970s when I was responsible for the public library in Petworth, in Sussex, complaints had been received that books of local interest, particularly those referring to the Wyndham family, had been defaced by written comments in the margins. The perpetrator, who took no steps to conceal her identity, was the Honourable Ursula Wyndham (obituary, October 13).

For my confrontation with the lady I had to negotiate on foot a long driveway through a field of goats. Our conversation took place with her leaning through an upstairs window and myself on the drive below. Her defence was robust. She had a right and a duty to correct statements concerning her family.

My response, which was the best I could think of at the time, was that she should write her own book and not deface the work of others. There were no further complaints and Ursula Wyndham's first published success occurred some years later.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. LIDDLE,
37 Grove Avenue,
Coombe Dingle, Bristol, Avon.
October 13.

Short rations

From Air Commodore J. G. De'Ath, RAF (retd)

Sir, Computer discourtesy and the incapability of current systems to deal with a third initial (letters, September 23, October 2, 10, 14) could be less important to some of us than their inability to produce an apostrophe.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN De'ATH,
Jesus College, Oxford.
October 14.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 18: The Rt Hon Anthony Blair MP (Leader of the Opposition) this morning called on The President of the Republic of Finland at Buckingham Palace.

The Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP (Leader of the Liberal Democratic Party) afterwards called on His Excellency.

The President of the Republic of Finland later visited the Confederation of British Industry, New Oxford Street, London WC1, and was received by the President (Sir Bryan Nicholson) and the Mayor of Camden (Councillor Dr Sada Deshmukh).

His Excellency delivered a Speech to the Council and subsequently attended a Bilateral Meeting between the Confederation of British Industry and the Confederation of Finnish Industries and Employers.

The President of the Republic of Finland visited No 10 Downing Street for talks with the Prime Minister.

Afterwards The President and Mrs Ahtisaari were entertained to Luncheon by the Prime Minister on behalf of Her Majesty's Government.

The President of the Republic of Finland this afternoon visited the Finland Trade Centre, Pall Mall, London SW1, and was received by Mr Olli Anttila (Commercial Counsellor).

Later His Excellency attended a Reception at the Royal Institute of International Affairs, St James's Square, London SW1, and was received by the Chairman (the Lord Wright of Richmond) and gave a Lecture.

The President of the Republic of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari this evening received an Address of Welcome at a Court of Common Council and afterwards were entertained at a Banquet by the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor and Corporation of London at Guildhall.

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were present.

Mrs Ahtisaari this morning visited the Fabergé Exhibition in The Queen's Gallery.

Later Mrs Ahtisaari visited the British Library, London WC1, was received by the Chairman (Sir Anthony Kenny) and subsequently toured the new British Library building in Euston Road, London NW1.

Mrs Ahtisaari this afternoon unveiled a plaque to Jean Sibelius at 15 Gloucester Walk, London W8, and was received by the Chief Executive, English Heritage (Mr Christopher Green), the President, UK Sibelius Society (Mr Edward Clark) and the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Councillor Paul Warrick).

Afterwards Mrs Ahtisaari attended a Recital and Reception at the Finnish Residence, Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8.

Sir Timothy Daunt was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Lieutenant-Governor of the Isle of Man.

Lady Daunt was also received by Her Majesty.

Sir Alan Urwick was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Serjeant-at-Arms in Ordinary to Her Majesty (House of Commons).

Mr Peter Jennings was received by The Queen upon his appointment as Serjeant-at-Arms in Ordinary to Her Majety (House of Commons).

The Queen held a Council at 12.40pm.

There were present: the Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Lord Fraser of Carmyllie (Minister of State, Department of Trade and Industry), the Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP (Chief Secretary to the Treasury) and the Rt Hon Brian Mawhinney MP (Minister without Portfolio).

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of Her Majesty before the Council.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended the Annual National Service for Seafarers in St Paul's Cathedral and were received by Alderman Sir Paul Newall (representing the Lord Mayor) and the Dean (the Very Reverend Eric Evans).

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, Outward Bound Trust, this morning chaired a trustees' meeting at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Master, this afternoon attended the Trinity House Civic Lunch at Trinity House, London EC3.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Varyl Begg which was held in St Martin-in-the Fields this afternoon.

The Duke of Kent was represented by Captain Marcus Barnett.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 18: The Duke of York, Patron, today attended a Luncheon at the Fleet Air Arm Museum, Yeovilton, Somerset.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 18: The Prince Edward, Chairman, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening held a meeting at Buckingham Palace.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 18: The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, this morning attended the Annual Public Meeting at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1.

Her Royal Highness, President, British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon visited Austin Reed, Regent Street, London W1, and afterwards visited Aquascutum Limited, Regent Street.

The Princess Royal, Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, later opened the Pimlico Citizens Advice Bureau, Tachbrook Street, London SW1.

The Hon Mrs Legge-Bourke was in attendance.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 18: The Prince of Wales this morning chaired a meeting of The Prince of Wales Co-ordinating Committee at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness this afternoon gave a Luncheon for the Millennium Commissioners at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales received the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind MP (Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of Wales, received the Lord Williams of Mostyn (the Pro-Chancellor).

The Prince of Wales this evening gave a Reception for the Justice Trust Appeal at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness later attended the Royal Film Performance of French Kiss at the Empire Cinema, Leicester Square, London WC2.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr Andrew MacKay MP to be Vice Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Household.

Luncheons

Prime Minister

The Prime Minister and Mrs Major were the hosts at a luncheon held yesterday at 10 Downing Street in honour of the President of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari. The other guests were:

Mrs Tarja Halonen, the Ambassador of Finland and Mrs Blomqvist, Mr Jaakko Kalela, Mr and Mrs Jari Köhler, Mr Jaakko Blomberg, Mr Antti Hynninen, Lieutenant-Colonel Kari Kasurinen, Mr Jaakko Laajava, Mr Timo Jalkanen, Mr Elikka Kosonen, Mr Alpo Rusi, Mr and Mrs Olli Anttila, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP, QC, and Mrs Rifkind, Mr Ian Lang, MP, the Earl and Countess of Dalkeith, Viscount Craigavon, the Bishop of Portsmouth and Mrs Stevenson, Lord and Lady Prior, Lord Camoys, Lord and Lady Wright of Richmond, Mr and Mrs Francis Maude, Mr Marmaduke and Lady Susan Hussey, Mr Robin Cook, MP, Mr Menzies Campbell, MP, QC, and Mrs Campbell, Mr and Mrs Rauli Sulkkanen, Mr John Monks, Mr Robert Bauman, Professor William Mead, Dr William and Professor Helen Wallace, Ms Patricia Roivas, Mr and Mrs Hugh Bean, Mr and Mrs John Orford, Mr Nicholas Logsdail, Mr Ian Bruce, MP, Mr William Powell, MP, and Mrs Powell, Mr and Mrs Quentin Peel, Mr and Mrs Thomas Richardson, Mr and Mrs David Burns, Lieutenant-Commander Toby Williamson and Mr and Mrs Roderic Lyne.

Tallow Chandlers' Company

Mr M.M.L. Sutcliffe, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented the company's medals and awards to young employees in the Federation of Fats, Oils and Seeds Association at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. The Duncan Knight scholarship was presented to Mr Ahmed Yassin and the Theatre Lighting award to Mr Ignacio Sastre.

Service reunion

Clover Club

Brigadier John Woodroffe, President of the Clover Club (8th Indian Division), with members of the club and their ladies, attended the annual reunion held yesterday at HM Tower of London. Mr Lindsay Wince presided.

Banquet

Corporation of London

The Duke and Duchess of Kent were present at a banquet given by the Corporation of London last night at Guildhall to mark the visit to the City of London of the President of Finland and Mrs Ahtisaari. The Lord Mayor and Corporation presented an address of welcome. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests. Among those present were:

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Ambassador of Finland and Mrs Blomqvist, the Secretary-General to the President, the Managing Director of Finnish Forest Industries Federation and Mrs Köhler, the Under-Secretaries of State for the Political Department and the Department for External Economic Relations, the First Aide-de-Camp to the President, the Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Chief of Protocol, the Director-General for the EU-Secretariat, the Adviser to the President, the Second Aide-de-Camp to the President, the Counsellor, Press and Cultural Department.

The Ambassador of Latvia and Mrs Lusis, the Ambassador of Lithuania, the Norwegian Ambassador and Mrs Vraalsen, the Ambassador of Iceland, the Deputy High Commissioner for South Africa, the Lord Chamberlain and the Countess of Airlie, Viscount and Viscountess Colville of Culross, Viscount Craigavon, the Lord-Lieutenant for Greater London and Lady Bramall, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord and Lady Camoys, Lord and Lady Auckland, Lord and Lady Elton, Lord and Lady Mountevans, Lord Cockfield, Lord and Lady Tope, Baroness Smith of Gilmorehill, Lord and Lady Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord and Lady Slynn of Hadley, the Secretary of State for Scotland and Mrs Forsyth, Sir Michael and Lady Palliser, the Minister of State, Northern Ireland Office, and Lady Wheeler, the Minister of State for Energy and Industry and Mrs Eggar, Mr Tristan and Mrs Garel-Jones.

The Master of the Rolls and Lady Bingham, the President of the Family Division and Lady Brown, the Vice Chancellor of the Chancery Division and Lady Scott, Sir Peter and Lady Petrie, the Chief of the Air Staff and Lady Graydon, General Sir Garry and Lady Johnson, Air Chief Marshal Sir Denis Smallwood, Air Marshal Sir Timothy and Lady Garden, Sir Leslie and Lady Fielding, Sir Charles and Lady Powell, Sir Thomas and Lady Macpherson, the Commissioner, Metropolitan Police, and Lady Condon, Sir Patrick Cormack, MP, and Lady Cormack, Mr Stanley and the Hon Mrs Wright, the Lord Provost and Lady Provost of Edinburgh, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Westminster, Miss Victoria Roberts, representatives of the services and civil service, and of City institutions, Aldermen, Common Councilmen and Officers of the Corporation of London and their escorts, and representatives of organisations with commercial and cultural links with Finland.

Birthdays today

Sir Leslie Boreham, former High Court Judge, 77; Professor Sir Robert Boyd, physicist and astronomer, 73; Mr Matthew Carrington, MP, 48; Dr David Clark, MP, 56; Sir John Cullen, former chairman, Health and Safety Commission, 69; Mr Phil Davies, rugby player, 32; Mr Simon Dyer, Director-General, Automobile Association, 56; Mr John Evans, MP, 65; the Very Rev David Frayne, Provost of Blackburn, 61; Mr Bernard Hepton, actor, 70; Mr Paul Holmer, diplomat, 72; Mr S.L. James, former senior partner, Simmons and Simmons, 65; Sir Robert Jennings, QC, former president, International Court of Justice, 82; Mr John le Carré, writer, 64; Mr Graham Lock, former chief executive, Amalgamated Metal Corporation, 64; Mr Bill Morris, trade unionist, 57; Miss Mavis Nicholson, broadcaster, 65; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Pollock, 79; Sir Allan Ramsay, diplomat, 58; Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony Skingsley, 62; Sir Harold Walker, diplomat, 63; Major Sir Patrick Wall, former MP, 79; Mr Peter Whiston, architect, 83.

Service dinners

RNR Officers' Dining Club

Captain Ashe Lincoln, QC, RNVR, presided at a Royal Naval Reserve Officers' Dining Club Ladies' Night and Trafalgar Dinner held on board HQS Wellington last night. Admiral Sir Jeremy Black and Lady Black were Guests of Honour. Admiral Black proposed the toast "The Immortal Memory".

The Light Infantry

Major-General Michael Regan presided at the annual dinner of The Light Infantry Club held last night at the Naval and Military Club.

MICHAEL POWELL

The musket ball that killed Nelson, encased in a locket, is among 600 items recalling Britain's greatest naval hero that went on show at the National Maritime Museum in London yesterday. Other relics include the uniform in which he died at Trafalgar, with bloodstained bullet hole, and his pigtail

Memorial services

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Varyl Begg

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh were represented by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Admiral of the Fleet Sir Varyl Begg held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields. The Duke of Kent was represented by Captain Marcus Barnett. The Ven Michael Bucks, Chaplain of the Fleet, officiated.

Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord, read the lesson. Mr Timothy Begg, son, read The Desiderata and Mr Peter Begg, son, read from the works of Rudyard Kipling. Lord Hill-Norton gave an address. Among others present were:

Lady Begg (widow), Mrs Timothy Begg and Mrs Peter Begg (daughters-in-law), Miss Miranda Begg, Miss Katherine Begg, Miss Harriet Begg, Miss Lucy Begg, Miss Tessa Begg, Miss Sally Begg, Mr Peter Begg, Mr Tim Begg and Mr Simon Begg (grandchildren), Mrs C Clarke; Lord Carrington, KG, CH, and Lady Carrington, Field Marshal Lord Bramall, KG, Lord Greenhill of Harrow, Lady Hill-Norton, Lord and Lady Moore of Wolvercote, the Hon Lady Dundas, the Hon Mrs Hensman, the Hon Vice-Admiral Sir Nicholas and Lady Hill-Norton.

Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, Admiral of the Fleet Sir William and Lady Staveley, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Michael Pollock, Admiral Sir Peter and Lady Abbott, Admiral Sir John and Lady Bush, Admiral Sir Desmond Dreyer, Admiral Sir Horace and Lady Law, Admiral Sir Rae McKaig, Admiral Sir David and Lady Williams, General Sir Ian and Lady Gourlay, General Sir Charles and Lady Harington, Air Chief Marshal Sir David Evans, Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel and Lady Maynard, Air Marshal Sir Timothy Garden (representing the Chief of Air Staff and the Air Force Board), Vice-Admiral Sir Peter and Lady Ashmore, Vice-Admiral Sir David and Lady Brown, Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Dalton, Vice-Admiral Sir John Forbes, Vice-Admiral Sir Toby Frere, Vice-Admiral Sir Ian and Lady Hogg, Vice-Admiral Sir Louis Le Bailly, Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh Mackenzie, Vice-Admiral Sir John and Lady Martin, Vice-Admiral Sir Ian McGeoch, Admiral Sir William O'Brien, Vice-Admiral Sir Iwan and Lady Raikes, Vice-Admiral Sir John Roxburgh, Vice-Admiral Sir Anthony Tippet.

Rear-Admiral Sir Ronald and Lady Forrest, Rear-Admiral Sir Leslie Townsend, Rear-Admiral Sir Richard and Lady Trowbridge, Rear-Admiral B J Straker, Rear-Admiral A R B Sturdee, Major-General Sir Brian Wyldbore-Smith, Commandant Dame Marion Kettlewell, Sir Philip and Lady Adams, Sir James and Lady Dunnett, Lady Potter, Lady Rowan, Sir Reginald and Lady Secondé, Sir Robert Speed, QC, Lady Twiss, Lady Wykeham, Vice-Admiral J H Dunt, Rear-Admiral J J Blackham, Rear-Admiral James Cook, Rear-Admiral Anthony Davies, Rear-Admiral C C H Dunlop, Rear-Admiral and Mrs E W Ellis, Rear-Admiral and Mrs Edward Gueritz, Rear-Admiral and Mrs H W E Hollins, Rear-Admiral Guy F Liardet, Rear-Admiral B J Morgan, Rear-Admiral I G W Robertson, Major-General P R Kay, Major-General and Mrs H A Lascelles, Commandant Elizabeth Craig-McFeely, Captain M E Barrow, RN, Commander M J Robbins, Captain D W S Buchan of Auchmacoy, Captain J W Mott, RN, and Mrs Mott.

Mr A C S Adams, Mr Peter Bland, Mrs S Brignall, Mr Sam Clarke, Mrs J Dyson, Mr and Mrs R W Ford, Mr R G W Fryer, Mr Christopher Gill, MP, Mr and Mrs C E F Gough, Mr Bill Grandy, Mr and Mrs A Hamilton, Mr A R M Jaffray, Ms S Keenan, Mr and Mrs D D Lindsay, Mr and Mrs W R Merton, Mr R J Penney, Mr Sydney Redman, Mr T Ruck-Keene, Mr and Mrs D C J Rutherford, Mr John Smoker, Ms Dominique Pearce, and many other friends.

Sir Philip Oppenheimer

A memorial service for Sir Philip Oppenheimer will be held at St George's, Hanover Square, W1, at 11.30am on Tuesday, November 7.

Frederic Lloyd

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Frederic Lloyd will be held at noon on Thursday, November 16, 1995, at the Queen's Chapel of the Savoy, Savoy Hill, London, WC2.

Painter-Stainers' Company

The following have been installed as officers of the Painter-Stainers' Company for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr R.E. Edwards; Upper Warden, Mr R.M. Price; Renter Warden, Mr R.C. Houghton.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh will attend a thanksgiving service in Westminster Abbey at 3.00 to mark the completion of its restoration, followed by a reception at College Green, SW1.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as Honorary Life Member and Past President of the Marylebone Cricket Club, will open the new indoor cricket school at Lord's at 11.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Basic Skills Agency, will attend an annual conference at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at 10.30; as President of Patrons, Crime Concern, will attend the launch of Cutting Crime in Rural Areas: A Guide for Parish Councils at the Barbican Centre, at 1.20; will attend the Customs Drugs Awareness Day at The Custom House, Lower Thames Street, EC3, at 2.35; and will attend a Trafalgar Night dinner at the Royal Naval College Greenwich at 7.15.

Princess Margaret will attend a banquet at the Finnish Residence, 14 Kensington Palace Gardens, W8, at 8.15.

The Smith and Nephew Foundation

The Smith & Nephew Foundation Awards ceremony to honour its Fellows, Scholars and Bursars was held at the Banqueting House, Whitehall on Tuesday, October 17, in the Foundation's 21st Anniversary year. The Guest of Honour was the Countess of Limerick, CBE, for the past ten years Chairman of the British Red Cross Society. Many other eminent figures from the healthcare professions also attended.

Legal appointment

Peter Charles Lister Clark to be a circuit judge assigned to the south eastern circuit.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr F.D.S. Chapman and Lady Sarah Fortescue

The engagement is announced between Francis, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Chapman, of Thorington House, Stoke-by-Nayland, Suffolk, and Sarah, daughter of Mrs Jocelyn Hambro and the late Earl Fortescue, of Green Farm, Oddington, Gloucestershire.

Mr S. Dick and Miss F. O'Brien

The engagement is announced between Simon, second son of Mr John Dick, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, and the late Mrs Judy Dick, and Finella, eldest daughter of Commander and Mrs David O'Brien, of Landford Wood, Wiltshire.

Mr D.W. Dupree and Miss M.M. Jurgens

The engagement is announced between David Dupree, of Washington DC, son of the late Mr and Mrs Joseph W. Dupree, of Raleigh, North Carolina, and Marijke, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Jurgens, of Silchester, Hampshire.

Mr M.D.B. Gillie and Miss S.L. Edwards

The engagement is announced between Matthew, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Oliver Gillie, of Dulwich, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Edwards, of Wilstead, Bedfordshire.

Mr G.C. Hodgson and Miss C.E. Millar

The engagement is announced between Guy, son of Mr and Mrs William Hodgson, of Fillingham, Lincolnshire, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Sandy Millar, of Eskbank, Midlothian.

Mr R. Karmel and Miss D. Hartnett

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Nigel Karmel, and Deborah, daughter of Mr and Mrs J.M. Hartnett, of Effingham, Surrey.

Mr K.J.N. Lewis and Miss E.E. Lyall

The engagement is announced between Kevin, son of the late Mr Cyril Lewis and of Mrs Mairwen Lewis, of Tuffley Avenue, Gloucester, and Emma, daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Lyall, of Edenham, Bourne, Lincolnshire.

Mr N.C.W. Sellers and Miss A.M. Jessop Price

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Michael and Angela Sellers, of Porto, Portugal, and Anna, elder daughter of Anthony and Kay Jessop Price, of Cobham, Surrey.

Mr A.J. Peebles and Miss G.M. Cianelli

The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Dr Anthony Peebles, of Wickhambreaux, Kent, and Gina, daughter of Mr Paul Cianelli, of Columbus, Ohio, and Mrs Sandra Wilkinson, of Sparta, New Jersey.

Mr C.H. Smith and Miss A.C. Smith

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Smith, of Goodmanham, Yorkshire, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Smith, of Titchfield, Hampshire.

Mr R.T.G. Tyson and Miss C.T. Jaeger

The engagement is announced between Robin, son of Mr and Mrs John Tyson, of Canterbury, Kent, and Christina, daughter of Mr and Mrs George Jaeger, of Middlebury, Vermont, USA.

Marriages

Mr M.R.de C. Rondel and Miss A. Cronnelly

The marriage took place on October 7, at Christ Church, Bray, Co Dublin, of Mr Mark R. de Chastelai Rondel and Miss Allison Cronnelly.

A reception was held at the Court Hotel, Killiney and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr S.C. Lussier and Miss S.C. Oppenheimer

A Service of Blessing was held at the Church of St Mary and St John the Baptist, Newtown, following the marriage in Kingsclere on Saturday, October 14, of Mr Stephen Lussier, son of the late Mr Leon Lussier and of Mrs Kathleen Lussier, of Boston, and Miss Sophie Oppenheimer, eldest daughter of Mr Anthony Oppenheimer, of Burghclere, Hampshire, and Mrs Frederick Barker, of Highworth, Wiltshire. The Rev Carl Le Prevost officiated.

The bride was attended by Lara Isaac, Megan Pudney, Tara Wiggin, Fred Keeling, George Sallitt and George Simon. Mr Albert Moncada was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr P.J. Searle and Miss J.M. Thellusson

The marriage took place at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, on Saturday, October 14, 1995, of Peter James Searle and Joanna Mary Thellusson. Canon Donald Gray officiated.

A reception was held at St Ermin's Hotel.

Dinners

Scientific Instrument Makers' Company

Mr David Wallis, Master of the Scientific Instrument Makers' Company, presented the company's 1995 Awards for the best Royal Engineer students at the School of Military Survey to Major R.G. Dash and Lance-Corporal K.M. Edwards at an admission court dinner held last night at Scientific Instrument Makers' Hall. Admiral Sir Lindsay Bryson was the principal guest and speaker. Commander Guy Brocklebank also spoke. The guests included the Masters of the Spectacle Makers', Clockmakers', Launderers' and Engineers' Companies, Major-General M.P.G. Wilson, Director General of Military Survey, and Lieutenant-Colonel R.F. Prain, Chief Instructor of the School of Military Survey.

Before the dinner Mr Wallis was installed as Master, Mr Bill Lyons as Senior Warden and Sir Ivor Cohen as Junior Warden.

University of Reading

As part of the Twenty-First Anniversary Celebrations of the Law Department a dinner is to be held at Lincoln's Inn, Old Hall on Thursday, November 9. Any graduates who have not received details from the Department and are interested in attending, should contact Paul Jackson at the Department: Tel (01734) 318596, Fax (01734) 753280.

Church appointment

The Rev David Waller, Curate, Aldwick: to be Team Vicar, Crawley (Chichester).

Royal College of Physicians of London

Following the Harveian Oration, delivered by Professor John Swales, the President, Sir Leslie Turnberg and Lady Turnberg together with College Officers and Fellows, entertained their guests to Dinner at the College on the occasion of the Harveian Celebration. Among those present were:

Sir Roger Bannister, Sir David Barran, Mrs Margaret Beckett, MP, Sir Walter Bodmer, Lord Brain, Lord Briggs, Sir Norman Browse, Lady Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Butterfield, Sir Tim Chessells, Professor Dame Barbara Clayton, Baroness Cox, Baroness Cumberlege, Lord Desai, Dr Sada Deshmukh (the Mayor of Camden), Mr Stephen Dorrell, MP, Baroness Flather, Lord Flowers, Sir Paul Girolami, Lord Hayhoe, Sir Donald Irvine, Sir Alex Jarratt, Sir Denys Lasdun, Dame June Lloyd, Lord Peyton of Yeovil, Sir David Plastow, the Hon Mrs Joseph Rank, Dame Kathleen Raven, Lord Rayne, Sir Mark Richmond, Dame Rosemary Rue, Sir William Shapland, Sir Maurice Shock, Sir Harry and Lady Solomon, Sir William Staveley, Sir Keith Stuart, Sir Rodney Sweetnam, Sir Keith Thomas, Dame Margaret Turner-Warwick, the Hon Mr George Weir, Lord and Lady Wolfson.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Alfred Dreyfus, French army officer wrongly imprisoned for espionage, Mülhausen, Alsace, 1859; Auguste Lumière, pioneer of motion pictures, Besançon, 1862.

DEATHS: King John, reigned 1199-1216, Newark, Nottinghamshire, 1216; Jonathan Swift, satirist, Dublin, 1745; Ernest Rutherford, physicist, Cambridge, 1937; Jacqueline du Pré, cellist, London, 1987.

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He is the living God, the everlasting, whose kingly power will never be destroyed; whose sovereignty will have no end.
Daniel 6 : 26 (REB).

BIRTHS

BASHALL - On October 11th, to Sarah Lucie (née Watson) and James, a daughter, Sophie Ella Louise.

BOARDMAN - On 5th October, to Julia (née Carrick) and Christopher, a daughter, Charlotte-Sophia Olivia Carrick.

BRECHER - On Sunday 8th October 1995, in London, to Shirley (née Musry) and Richard, a darling daughter, Elena Dana, a sister to Tamara.

CRITICOS - On October 14th 1995, to George and Sandra, the gift of a son, Andrew John, a brother for Maria and Louise.

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FLETT - On October 13th 1995 at The Borders General Hospital, Scotland, to Clare and John, a daughter, Zoe Elizabeth.

FOUNTAIN - On October 11th, to Rebecca (née Parsons) and Mike, a daughter, Lucy Alexandra, a sister for Tom and Charlotte.

HOBBS - On October 17th, to Joanna (née Buxton) and Francis, a daughter, Isobel Josephine.

KELLY - To my wonderful wife Becky, thank you for our beautiful sons, James and Matthew (born 18th October 1995), my love always Paul.

REID - On 16th October 1995, to Charlotte (née Sillars) and Timothy, a son, George Michael James, 8lbs 15oz, a brother for Rebecca and Lucy.

REID - On October 15th, to Nicki (née Barclay Jacobs) and Robert, a son, Hugo Barclay Roca.

SCOTT - On October 3rd 1995, in Dorchester, to Sophie (née Wollen) and Rupert, a son, Charles Eldon.

WARD - On October 12th 1995, to Caroline (née McLeod) and Paul, a daughter, Katharine Helen, a sister for Thomas.

MARRIAGES

ROBERTSON:EDWARDS - On 18th October in Cape Town, South Africa, of Timothy elder son of the late Mr Denis Robertson and Mrs Barbara Robertson of Bramley, Surrey and Jane younger daughter of the late Mr John Edwards and Mrs Clare Edwards of Bardon Mill, Northumberland.

DEATHS

BARRASS - Eva M. on October 16th of Balby formerly of Thorne Road and Bawtry aged 87 years. Dearest daughter of the late Jonathan and Sarah Hannah Barrass and a very dear Aunt and Great-Aunt. Service and committal Rose Hill Crematorium on Tuesday October 24th at 1.30 pm. Enquiries to Co-operative Funeral Service, 89-90 Spring Gardens, tel: Doncaster 342801.

BELLWOOD - On 16th October 1995, Moyra Lindores of Stamfordham, Northumberland. Wife of the late Raymond, mother of Diana, Mary and Richard, grandmother and great-grandmother. Private cremation. Family flowers only but, if desired, donations to Coronary Care Unit, Hexham General Hospital.

CLOUT - Colin Herbert on 13th October in San Francisco, California, peacefully with his family at his side. Much loved and loving husband of Judith, father of Caroline, Geraldine, Allison and Melissa and grandfather of Charlotte, Annabel and Miranda and brother of Dr. Ivan Clout. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to The Royal Marsden Cancer Fund, 203 Fulham Road, London, SW3 6JJ, in memory of Colin Clout. Memorial Service to be held in London, date to be announced.

DE CENT - Lt. Col. Douglas de Cent OBE, RA, on October 18th aged 77, peacefully after a long illness. Dearly loved husband of Theodorine and father of Nicholas, Vida, Myrla and Marinka. A special man who will be mourned with great love and sadness by all who knew him. Funeral Service at Barham Crematorium on Wednesday 25th October at 1.30 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Cancer Research please.

EVANS - On 16th October 1995 in the devoted care of the staff of Copford Place Nursing Home, Colchester, after some years of poor health, Cecily aged 90 years, widow of Walter and dear mother of Gill Guthrie and Carol. Funeral at Copford Church on Monday 23rd October at 2.30 pm. Flowers to W.H. Shephard, 93/94 High Street, Colchester.

GARDNER - Kenneth Walter, on 16th October 1995, peacefully after a short illness. Funeral Service on Monday 23rd October at Hampstead Parish Church, Church Row at 12 noon. No mourning and no flowers please. Donations, if desired, to Wormwood Scrubbs Pony Centre (Riding for the Handicapped) c/o Sister Mary Joy, 30 Sunningdale Avenue, East Acton, London W3 7NS. Further enquiries to Leverton & Sons. Tel: (0181) 455 4992.

HALES - Suddenly on October 17th, Ruth Mary, at Wicklands, Little Horsted, Sussex, formerly of Brighton, beloved daughter of the late Francis and Louise Hales of Muswell Hill. Funeral will take place at 9.30 am on Wednesday October 25th at St Philip's R.C. Church, Uckfield, followed by cremation. Flowers may be sent to Fuller & Scott, The Walelyns, Uckfield, TN22 1AJ, tel: (01825) 763241.

HODGKINSON - On October 17th 1995 peacefully at Pinehurst Rest Home, Mickleham, Beryl aged 87, widow of Commander Guy Hodgkinson D.S.O., R.N. Funeral Service at Leatherhead Crematorium on Monday October 23rd at 3.30 pm. No flowers. Donations if desired to King George's Fund for Sailors, 8 Hatherley Street, London SW1P 2YY.

JOHNS - On 17th October 1995, of Motor Neurone Disease, in Hurstwood Park Hospital, Haywards Heath, Sussex, Alan Wesley Johns, C.M.G., O.B.E., S.Q.A. (Pakistan), aged 64, of Cuckfield, Sussex. Survived by his wife Joan and children Mark and Emma. Funeral Service at the Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Worth, on Monday 23rd October, 1995, at 2 pm. Donations, if desired, for Sight Savers and/or MNDA may be sent c/o Masters & Son, 4 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, RH16 2LB (01444) 482107, to whom enquiries may be made regarding the Memorial Service, to be held in November.

MacKENZIE - William Gregor MacKenzie, F.L.S., V.M.H., born Ballimore, Argyll in 1904, died Frimley, Surrey on 16th October. Beloved husband of the late Nan, father of Edna and grandfather of Andrew. Former Assistant Curator, Edinburgh Botanic Garden then Curator, Chelsea Physic Garden. Funeral at St Johns Crematorium, Woking on Tuesday 24th October at 2.30 pm. Flowers or donations, if desired, to Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society c/o Ford Mears and Partners Funeral Directors, 26 Frimley High Street, Frimley, Surrey GU16 5JD, tel: (01276) 26563.

PHILPS - Jean on 16th October 1995 passed peacefully away. Funeral Service at St Augustine's Church, Thorpe Bay, on Wednesday 25th October at 2 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. Donations may be sent for St Augustine's Church c/o F.P. Culver & Sons Ltd, 641 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2PN.

PORKESS - Alexander MacLean (Mac) suddenly on 16th October, 1995, aged 74 years of Salisbury, Wiltshire. Dearly beloved husband of Peggy, much loved stepfather of Penelope and father-in-law of Craig and loving grandfather of Andrew, Christopher and Alexander. Funeral Service at Salisbury Cathedral on Thursday 26th October, 1995 at 2 pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired for The Stroke Association, c/o I.N. Newman Ltd., Funeral Directors, Griffin House, 65 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilts., SP1 1HL.

RICHARDSON - Gp. Capt. Frederick Charles 'Dickie' Richardson CBE FRIN DBA B.COM RAF (Ret'd) suddenly in his sleep on 12th October aged 83. Beloved husband of Mary and father to Ann, Richard & Johnny (d.1972). Private Family Cremation. Celebration of his life at St Clement Danes, Strand, London, on November 7th at 1.00pm. Donations if desired to The R.A.F. Benevolent Fund, c/o T.A. Ellement & Son Ltd., 21, Bridge Street, Pinner, HA5 3HR. "Per Ardua Ad Astra".

RUTTER - On October 17th 1995, peacefully in St Raphael's Hospice, Bill, beloved husband of Pamela and father of Sophie and Tim. Funeral Service will take place at Christ Church, Copse Hill, West Wimbledon, on Monday October 23rd at 10.30 am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to St Raphael's Hospice, London Road, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9DW. Enquiries to Fredk. W. Paine, (0181) 946-1974.

SKIPPER - James Theodore. Died 14th October 1995, peacefully at a nursing home. Dearly loved husband of Ethel Emma and much loved father of Jenny, Mark and Tim. Service took place in the Co-operative Funeral Church, 334 Ravenhill Road, Belfast, Tuesday at 10.15am. Funeral afterwards to Roselawn Cemetery. Very sadly missed by all the family and friends.

STUDLEY - Dr. George William Eglinton on October 17th at his home at Toft Monks (Norfolk) in his 80th year. Sadly missed by his 3 children and grandchildren. Funeral Service at Toft Monks Church on Monday October 23rd at 10.30 am followed by private cremation. Flowers to Harvey Bros. Funeral Directors of Kirby Cane (Norfolk) by 9 am please.

VAN MUSSCHENBROEK - Marnix Pieter, on October 1st, 1995 in Velp, The Netherlands, aged 90. Beloved father of Kelsey and Rosie, grandfather of Emily and Caroline. Memorial Service to be held in St Willibrord's Anglican Church, Adolf van Nieuwenaarlaan 3A, Arnhem, The Netherlands, on Wednesday, 1st November 1995, at 3 pm.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

GILES - There will be a Service of Thanksgiving for the life, work and humour of the cartoonist Carl Giles on Tuesday December 5th at 11.30 am at St Brides Church, Fleet Street, London, EC4.

ADOPTIONS

BLYTH - Anthony on 16th October 1995. Love from Mummy, Daddy, Grandma, Dan and Alan. Welcome to the family.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

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OBITUARIES

JOHN WALKER

John Walker, Director and first Curator of the National Gallery of Washington, died on October 16 aged 88. He was born on December 24, 1906.

THE National Gallery of Washington, which houses one of the greatest collections of pictures and sculptures in the world, is not yet 60 years old. For more than half that period its presiding genius was Johnnie Walker, who not only helped to plan, design and construct it but, more importantly, was responsible for acquiring many of the works of art which established its reputation. As its curator, and later director, he persuaded some of the richest American collectors of the century to donate or sell him their pictures so that he could hang them on the gallery's walls.

He freely admitted that his supreme pleasure as a curator was "buying paintings and sculpture with other people's money". It was a pleasure which he turned to the great advantage of the American art world. Seldom can a gallery director have been on closer terms with such wealthy connoisseurs as the Mellon family, Armand Hammer and others, whose masterpieces ended up in the gallery. But it was Walker's charm and unerring eye which ensured that he got only the best.

The three years that he spent as assistant to Bernard Berenson at I Tatti in the 1930s laid the foundations of his great knowledge and love of the Italian Renaissance, and he remained a close friend of Berenson's, visiting him every year until his death in 1959. But he was also an early enthusiast of modern art, and a gallery which he helped to found while still a student at Harvard University served as a model and inspiration for the later Museum of Modern Art in New York.

A convinced Anglophile, he counted as close friends Sir Francis Watson, director of the Wallace Collection, Sir John Pope-Hennessy, director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, and Sir Kenneth Clark. His links with Britain had been cemented by his marriage in 1937 to Lady Margaret Drummond, and in retirement they came to live in Amberley, near Arundel in Sussex.

John Walker was born into a wealthy Pittsburgh family whose fortune had been built on iron and steel alongside dynasties like the Mellons, Carnegies and Fricks. His parents were divorced when he was small and he was brought up by his mother. At the age of 13 he developed polio and for a time there was some doubt as to whether he would live, but he recovered, though for many years he was confined to a wheelchair. To entertain him, his mother took him on visits to art galleries in New York, and he discovered not only a love of pictures but an ambition to be a curator.

He elected to go to Harvard, which had a fine arts department considered to be the best in America, and with two friends, Lincoln Kerstein and Edward Warburg, opened the Harvard Society for Contemporary Arts which showed works by artists rarely exhibited at that time in America.

On graduating, he was sent to Florence to work with Berenson, and after three years as his assistant, went to Rome where he headed the fine arts department at the American Academy. It was there that he met and married Margaret Drummond, daughter of Lord Perth, the British Ambassador during the Mussolini era.

In 1938 he learnt of plans by Andrew Mellon to establish an art gallery in Washington, and wrote to Mellon's son, Paul, to ask if there might be a place for him on the staff; he found himself appointed its chief curator in 1939. Although the fabulous Mellon pictures were to be the core of the gallery's collection, Walker immediately began looking round for sources of other works of art. His physical condition prevented him taking an active part in the war, but he was sent to Europe in 1945 to help recover and preserve works of art looted by the Nazis. The next years were spent identifying the key collections of great art held in America and persuading their owners to sell or donate them.

He was single-minded in his pursuit of pictures, whether it was Rembrandt's *Aristotle with the Bust of Homer*, Fragonard's *La Liseuse* or El Greco's *Laocoon*. But it was the purchase of Leonardo da Vinci's *Ginevra dei Benci* from the Prince of Liechtenstein that he regarded as his greatest coup — it took him 16 years, and the price (reputedly less than $10 million) has never been disclosed. In 1962, at the instigation of Jacqueline Kennedy, he helped arrange the visit of the Mona Lisa to Washington — the first time it had been lent by the Louvre.

Walker's connections with the rich art-collecting families of America undoubtedly helped him in his quest for great pictures. But it was his charm, diplomacy, persistence and patent integrity which made them warm to him and predisposed them in his favour in the teeth of competition. His timing was usually impeccable. "In the United States," he once wrote (tongue in cheek), "it is axiomatic that the undertaker and the museum director arrive almost simultaneously."

He was as good in tactfully refusing paintings which he considered mediocre as he was in acquiring the best of them, and he always insisted that they hang in perfect conditions. He was adamantly against the over-cleaning of pictures, regarding it as an act of vandalism.

He admired British galleries which he believed to be for the enjoyment of art and criticised those US galleries which concentrated on what he called "quick viewers" and attendance figures. Although neither he nor Margaret counted themselves great entertainers, they were stars in the Washington social firmament, and an invitation to their house in Georgetown was much sought after.

On retirement in 1969, he and Margaret moved to England, though they kept a house in Florida and crossed the Atlantic frequently. The author of several books on art, he served on many arts organisations, including the art advisory committee of the National Trust. His wife died in 1987. They had two children — a son who died young, and a daughter Gillian who survives him.

DONALD BANCROFT

Donald Bancroft, schoolmaster, died on September 28 aged 81. He was born on October 29, 1913.

DONALD BANCROFT was a remarkable schoolmaster, a brilliant teacher of both Classics and English. But he by no means fitted into any conventional Mr Chips mould — being also an accomplished freelance radio scriptwriter and even ultimately a broadcaster in his own right.

Born in Halifax, he was educated at Halifax Grammar School and won a Classics scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. There he took a first in Mods and a second in Greats. He then went to teach at King's School, Rochester.

He was only 25 when war broke out and originally served in the Royal Artillery before, along with many other classical scholars, being recruited as a cryptographer at Bletchley Park.

In 1948 he was appointed to teach Classics at Lancing College. He had a powerful intellect and a lively imagination and combined this with a direct Yorkshire bluntness. These qualities gave a freshness to his approach, while his great love and respect for words and their meaning inspired his pupils with a love of literature and encouraged their efforts to write Greek and Latin prose.

His wide literary interests led him to build a specialist English department and, although he continued to teach some Classics, he became head of English at Lancing until his retirement in 1978. He taught many pupils who have since made their names — including Christopher Hampton, David Hare and Sir Tim Rice. A steady stream of classical scholars went on to Oxford and Cambridge, largely thanks to his guidance.

He was not content merely with the role of being a schoolmaster and from 1955 onwards worked as a freelance writer for radio. He abridged 160 books for *Storytime* and *Book at Bedtime* on Radio 4. He was always producing original work and was gratified when some of his short stories began to be broadcast on *Morning Story* — thirty of them. Their entertainment value sprang from his acute observation of character and situation and a gift for dialogue, with irony ever lurking below the surface. He compiled a number of progammes for Radio 3, which included five programmes on the Sicilian Expedition of Thucydides.

To the end of his life he enjoyed delighting audiences with his literary musings and he was a gifted reader with a wonderful sense of timing. Some time ago, while she was still with the BBC, Margaret Howard interviewed him for *Pick of the Week*; she paid a compliment to his engaging personality and went out of her way to highlight the quality and excellence of his contribution to radio entertainment.

He is survived by his wife Dorrie and two daughters.

DR PETER DINNICK

Dr Peter Dinnick, anaesthetist, died on September 15 aged 78. He was born on January 17, 1917.

OSWALD PETER DINNICK, affectionately known as OPD, was an anaesthetist whose career covered the era from "rag and bottle" anaesthesia to the highly technical anaesthetic work stations of the present day. The safety of these systems owes much to his lifetime's work on British, European and International standards committees — and all this at the same time as being a busy doctor at the Middlesex Hospital.

There he faced a heavy clinical workload, including the daunting task on one occasion of anaesthetising Winston Churchill. For 25 years he was the hospital's senior anaesthetist, a position involving a considerable administrative burden.

He came from a medical family — his father was a surgeon and accompanying him on his various professional journeys gave his son an encyclopaedic knowledge of England's roads. Educated at University College School, he trained at the Middlesex Hospital, qualifying in June 1939. By 1940, he had obtained the Diploma in Anaesthetics, the only professional qualification then available. That same year — during the Blitz — he became the senior resident anaesthetist, one of then only two residents. As his junior later commented: "We worked very hard, and of course surgery was much quicker then."

After service in the RAF as a specialist anaesthetist in North Africa and in Italy, where he met his wife Margaret, he applied to his old hospital and was appointed consultant. Perhaps his outstanding crusade and contribution was to safer anaesthesia, in the areas of both training and equipment: in this connection he was an adviser on anaesthesia equipment to the DHSS. His important early papers were on deaths associated with anaesthesia and the lessons to be drawn from them. Because of his mechanical interests — he was an avid motor racing enthusiast — he was well placed to balance the conflicting interests of manufacturers, technical experts and doctors to attain safer anaesthetic apparatus.

Although modestly describing himself as suffering from "altitude sickness", he managed to maintain an enthusiastic contribution to high level professional meetings. He also continued to indulge his other love — sailing — almost up till his death.

In his latter years, he had time to pursue his interest in the classical literature of religious philosophy. He also took great interest in the affairs of his local church at Empshott, Hampshire, as churchwarden and a member of the parish council. He was a member of the deanery synod of the diocese of Portsmouth.

Peter Dinnick is survived by his wife and their son and

BRYAN JOHNSON

Bryan Johnson, actor and singer, died of cancer yesterday aged 59. He was born on July 18, 1926.

BRYAN JOHNSON was a classical actor of some distinction, but his brief moment of fame with a wider public came in 1960, when he represented Britain in the Eurovision Song Contest. His song *Looking High, High, High* sold more than a million copies, despite the fact that it came only second in the competition. It established his reputation as a singer.

Bryan Johnson was born in London. His brother Teddy Johnson also went into showbusiness, marrying the singer Pearl Carr with whom he formed a husband-and-wife singing act (by coincidence, they came second in the 1959 Eurovision Song Contest with *Sing Little Birdie*). Bryan won a place as a chorister to Westminster Abbey as a boy, but his ambition was to act, and he appeared in local amateur shows and pantomimes. Even as a youth, he was noted for his distinctive voice which in later years was compared to that of Robert Donat or Sir John Gielgud. Johnson was embarrassed by such claims and used to modestly murmur: "I'm known as 'the voice', but nobody remembers my face."

He trained at LAMDA, which he joined with a scholarship at the age of ten. The academy evacuated to Hampton Court during the war, but eventually closed because of lack of pupils. One of his old tutors then introduced him to Donald (later Sir Donald) Wolfit, and Johnson joined his company in 1942.

He played a number of Shakespearean parts in repertory throughout the 1940s, the most notable being the Fool to Wolfit's King Lear. They were a well-matched pair, and neither of them upstaged the other, which in the case of Wolfit was unusual. In between tours with Wolfit and his third wife Rosalind Iden, he appeared, much to Wolfit's annoyance, in a series of classical plays at the Old Vic Theatre under the direction of Tyrone Guthrie.

But Johnson had two sides to his personality. Although he believed passionately in classical theatre, he was also drawn to the idea of variety and music hall. After leaving Wolfit's company around 1950, he turned to the world of light entertainment. Wolfit recalled, in dismay: "He was the best Fool I ever had."

Johnson's variety career got off to a good start in the 1950s. He was the leading man in the touring productions of *The Student Prince* and *Lock Up Your Daughters*, as well as three variety shows at the London Palladium. In 1956 he had some success with a cover version of Eddie Fisher's hit, *Cindy, Oh Cindy*, and a similar success followed with *All of You* from the Cole Porter score to the film *Silk Stockings* (1957).

The turning point came in 1960 when he represented Britain in the Eurovision Song Contest singing *Looking High, High, High*, staged that year in Belgium. Despite the fact that he was awarded only second place, the song made him a radio celebrity, and he was forever afterwards billed on variety posters as "Mr Looking High, High, High". However, by the early 1960s, popular music was undergoing a revolution, and ballad singers such as Johnson were beginning to look decidedly passé.

Pantomimes and summer seasons followed, and occasionally he would appear in his own adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, in which he played Scrooge. The final twist to his career came in 1988 when a chance meeting with the Irish poet and playwright Patrick Galvin led to a suggestion that he star in Galvin's one-man show about the life of Oscar Wilde.

Johnson was initially nervous about the project, having seen the famous production by the Irish actor Micheal MacLiammoir, which he thought he could not follow. However, Galvin managed to persuade him that, as in MacLiammoir's performance, the voice was the essential part of the show, and *The Importance of Being Oscar* opened at the Pavilion Theatre, Brighton, later in 1988 to ecstatic reviews.

Critics once again drew attention to Johnson's voice and his "gorgeous antique diction" and so, in a sense, his career had come full circle. He later took the show to the provinces and to London, where it was recorded at the October Gallery, off Tottenham Court Road.

Johnson was regularly invited onto BBC Radio 2, often together with his brother Teddy, to talk about Wolfit or the history of variety.

He is survived by his wife Kathleen, whom he married five years ago.

ON THIS DAY

October 19, 1963

The resignation of Harold Macmillan as Prime Minister because of ill-health led by "normal processes of consultation" to the appointment as successor of Lord Home, who died earlier this month.

LORD HOME FACES CRISIS FORMING GOVERNMENT

From Our Political Correspondent

The Conservative Government were still caught in crisis when Lord Home left 10 Downing Street at 11.6 p.m. last night. At the end of a long day of tension and suspense Mr. Butler, Mr. Maudling and Lord Hailsham, who had been the three rivals for the succession, still had reservations about serving in the Administration which Lord Home had been invited by the Queen to try to form just after noon. But just after 10.30 p.m. it became clear that in a series of separate and collective interviews the reservations had slightly lessened.

He has not yet kissed hands on appointment as Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury. This must be properly regarded as immensely significant. It shows that Lord Home, unlike all other Prime Ministers designate since Mr. Bonar Law in 1922, could not feel secure enough of his position, when the invitation came, to inform the Queen immediately that he accepted the charge to form an Administration. He undertook to make the attempt. But last night reliable Conservative backbench opinion understood in private discussions with some of the principals that Lord Hailsham considered refusing to serve, Mr. Butler and Mr. Maudling reserved their positions, and Mr. Macleod's intentions were still not clear. Speculation also turned on the position, in the new circumstances, of Mr. Enoch Powell, the Minister of Health, and also Sir Edward Boyle, Minister of Education, who, with Lord Dilhorne, the Lord Chancellor, was one of the last ministerial visitors to 10 Downing Street late last night.

Lord Home began the task of trying to form an Administration to succeed Mr. Macmillan's knowing that his three rival candidates had been surprised and bitterly disappointed by the choice that had been made, and that a group of influential Cabinet Ministers had discussed into the early hours of the morning how Mr. Macmillan's decision to put forward his name could be changed.

Within two hours of being called to Buckingham Palace to hear the Queen's invitation (on Mr. Macmillan's advice), Lord Home went to 10 Downing Street to begin a series of separate interviews with his three defeated rivals for the draft.

Lord Home began to be seen as a compromise candidate for the party leadership a fortnight ago by only a few members of the party hierarchy. It is arguable that a widespread determination to stop Lord Hailsham and Mr. Butler prepared the way for Lord Home's eventual choice. But in the two or three days before Mr. Macmillan informed the Queen of the party consensus doubts had arisen inside the Cabinet and the rank and file members in the Commons about the wisdom of selecting an aristocrat.

In this way parliamentary opinion moved increasingly behind Mr. Butler. The first rumours of Lord Home's selection caused first incredulity and then consternation . . .

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THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 1995

NEWS

The old may get free nursing

■ Old people living in private residential homes will have their nursing costs paid for by the Government under proposals being drawn up by ministers.

The plan, which could be announced in the Budget and phased in, is designed to defuse mounting middle-class dismay over pensioners who have to sell their homes to pay for care, denying their children their inheritance........................Page 1

Howard to come out fighting

■ Michael Howard will today mount a vigorous fightback against calls for his resignation as the former head of the Prison Service prepares to take him to court for wrongful dismissal. The Home Secretary was reported to be ready to "come out with all guns blazing" in a Commons debate on the service..Pages 1, 2

Launch accident

A £140 million helicopter assault ship for the Royal Marines, *HMS Ocean*, has been damaged after an accident during its informal launching ceremony......... Page 1

Barbecue horror

A mother who suffered horrific burns when a friend poured methylated spirits on a garden barbecue has no prospect of leading a normal life again, the High Court was told.................Page 3

Shop floor perk

Vauxhall is offering more than 4,000 assembly line workers the chance to use a company car, taking Britain's most popular pay perk to the shop floor ....Page 5

West trial

One of Frederick West's daughters told how she was sexually abused from the age of eight by him and her stepmother, Rosemary West, in the cellar of their Cromwell Street home......Page 6

French invasion

French businessmen in Calais are pressing ahead with a bid for a controlling interest in the port of Dover to stop it from falling into "hostile hands". They are prepared to pay £150m......... Page 6

Consultant's penalty

A hospital consultant has been disciplined by an NHS trust after writing to *The Times* about the shortage of intensive-care beds.............................. Page 9

Women choose merit

Talented women should be appointed on merit rather than through positive discrimination, employers said after quotas were made illegal by the European Court of Justice .... Page 10

Tory thoughts

John Major has given his private blessing to a new Tory think-tank dedicated to carving out a revolutionary social agenda...... Page 12

Claes's last plea

Willy Claes, who has led Nato for the past year, will make a final attempt to keep his job as Secretary-General today when he goes before the Belgian parliament to plead his innocence on charges of corruption .... Page 13

Islamic ultimatum

The Islamic terrorist group believed to be responsible for the bombings in France has issued an ultimatum to President Chirac to cancel a meeting with President Zeroual of Algeria .. Page 14

Ferry refugees

The fate of 650 Palestinians on a car ferry off Cyprus after being expelled from Libya remained uncertain although Syria has agreed to accept most of them................................ Page 15

Dole hits back

Robert Dole, the front-runner for the Republican nomination, is discouraging General Colin Powell from the race ....Page 16

Death of a champion

■ Red Rum, a horse whose name was synonymous with the most precious and elusive commodity in sport — victory, died. Three wins in the Grand National: it really is true. We shall not see his like again. On May 3 he had stepped out of his retirement to make an appearance at Aintree, home of the Grand National, to celebrate his 30th birthday..............Page 1

Fast bowler Angus Fraser with his son Alex and fiancee Denise Simmonds as the England cricket team set off for South Africa. Page 46

CHRIS HARRIS

BUSINESS

Economy: Retail sales dropped by 0.4 per cent year on year in September, the first such fall since July 1992. Unemployment, however, fell to a four-year low .... Page 25

Banking: Wells Fargo launched the largest takeover bid in US banking with a $10.1 billion offer for First Interstate .... Page 25

Big gains: Graham Kirkham, founder and chairman of DFS, is set to make about £60 million from the sale of part of the shares his family holds in the furniture group that floated on the stock market two years ago .... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 rose 30.8 to 3593.0. Sterling's index was unchanged at 84.2 after a fall from $1.5738 to $1.5697 but a rise from DM2.2298 to DM2.2337 ....Page 28

Cricket: England set off to South Africa with some complimentary words from Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, speeding them on their way .... Pages 46, 48

Tennis: Steffi Graf, the joint world No 1, was defeated in the second round of the Brighton International tournament by Mariaan de Swardt, the South African outsider........................... Page 48

Rugby Union: Damian Hopley, the Wasps centre, is close to claiming the England right wing position for the game against South Africa next month .... Page 42

Rugby league: Australia and New Zealand both name inexperienced hookers for their Halifax World Cup semi-final clash at Huddersfield on Sunday .... Page 43

Hapless Hugh: A dreadful slapstick comedy, *Nine Months*, is not what Hugh Grant's career needs right now; other new films this week include a fine Italian movie, *Il Postino*, and the video-game spinoff, *Mortal Kombat*..........Page 35

Potter's gospel: The Royal Shakespeare Company has staged Dennis Potter's uneven but provocative 1969 play about Jesus, *Son of Man*...................................Page 36

Young batons: Some of the world's top young maestros have been battling it out at the first Bernstein Conducting Competition ...Page 37

Chance encounter: The countertenor Michael Chance is preparing for a leading role in English National Opera's new staging of Purcell's *Fairy Queen* ....Page 37

Face lift: Research into the working of the sinus means doctors can now offer relief from the misery of chronic inflamation ....Page 18

Attendant problems: The growth of cheap air travel has reduced the role of the once-glamorous stewardess to little more than an airborne safety officer ....Page 19

Byzantium: John Julius Norwich's history completed; Karen Armstrong on God and Matthew d'Ancona on the Gospels ..Page 38

Wystan's world: Peter Ackroyd on W.H. Auden; Matthew Parris on Andrew Sullivan's apologia for a gay conservative; Oliver Letwin on Michael Portillo ....Page 39

Unequal service: Women business travellers complain that they are either treated rudely, harassed or ignored................................ Page 40

Mr Lewis's disappointment at losing his job is understandable, but the fuss he is making is undignified, to say the least. The idea of him now suing Mr Howard for breach of contract is absurd

— *Evening Standard*

There shouldn't be any tax cut at all until the deficit is safely down. The President already gives far too much away — *The Washington Post*

IN THE TIMES

■ *SHOW-STOPPER*
Win a £4,000 holiday for two in Brazil in *The Times* Around the World in 80 *Days* competition

■ THEATRE
Benedict Nightingale on the new production of John Osborne's
A Patriot for Me

Preview: Welsh Guards on duty in Northern Ireland come under the scrutiny of film-maker Molly Dineen. *In the Company of Men* (BBC2, 9pm) **Review:** Matthew Bond enjoys a rude, cruel send-off from Mel and Griff ....Page 47

Nunn for Nato

As Mr Claes confronts his past — in the shape of charges of corruption, forgery and fraud — Nato leaders need to cast a steadier eye on the alliance's future than they did when they appointed him . Page 21

Grounds for reform

The row that is brewing in the Conservative Party over the reform of divorce law is based upon a fundamental misconception. Those who oppose the Lord Chancellor are concerned that it will make divorce easier: it will not ...Page 21

Rara avis

Imagine the excitement among paleo-twitchers at the discovery in a remote Chinese province of fossilised avian remains from the Jurassic age.......................Page 21

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

At this stage, in this parliament, with the Government struggling to recover after years of unpopularity, it would be too damaging to lose a Home Secretary. The Prime Minister is standing behind Michael Howard and has little political option but to do so .... Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Even publicity seeking Tory MPs have been quiet. Most do, after all, back Mr Howard's tough line on law and order. Their silence is his strongest support ....Page 12

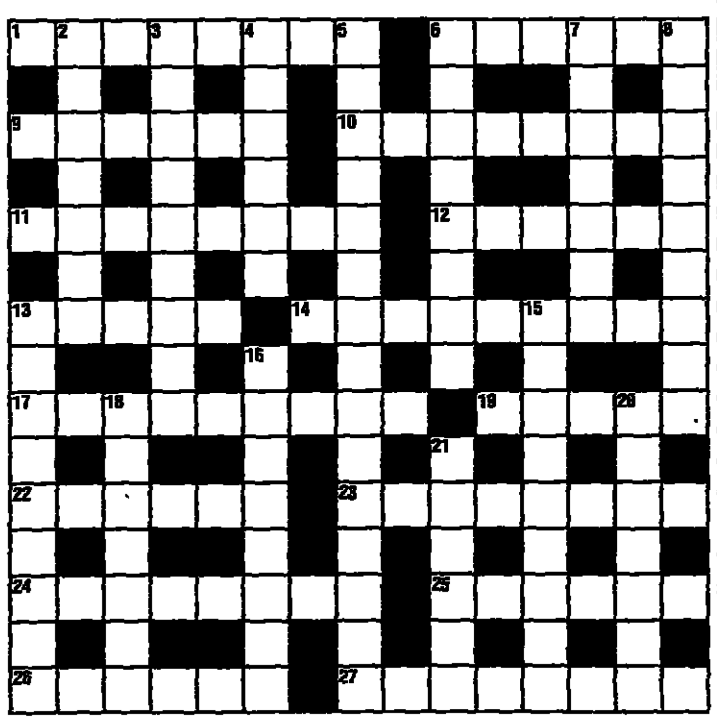
JANET DALEY

Women wish to be treated fairly. They do not wish to be indulged or patronised and they are fully aware of the justified resentment that they will incur if they are allowed to leapfrog.............................. Page 20

John Walker, Director and first Curator of the National Gallery of Washington; **Bryan Johnson**, actor and singer; **Dr Peter Dinnick**, anaesthetist ....Page 23

Home Secretary's responsibilities: tougher sentencing; qualities needed for modern hymns.......Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,990



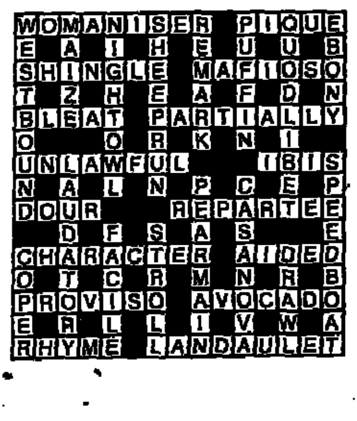
ACROSS

1 Resort to richer language to impress (8)
6 Child holding mother back — they're ramblers (6)
9 Mate upset — king escapes snare (6)
10 Mugging up about a ghost (8)
11 Well covered by hair in fringe, in a word (8)
12 Some oxygen I allow to get warm (6)
13 I would love to be in it, that was natural (5)
14 Temperate zone (9)
17 Entering hilly area, leading amateur driver loses part of car (9)
19 Mark two (5)
22 Citrus flourishing in the country (6)
23 Engineers likely to be dependable (8)
24 Start running business (8)
25 Thrusting head of the river? (6)
26 Spite voiced in private (6)
27 Special treatment involving pimentos (8)

DOWN

2 Many a dog deprived of love gets angry (7)
3 Run into the quiet, dilapidated entrance (9)
4 Traveller to dine — and do it again (6)
5 Which reporter's name upset an architect? (11,4)
6 Direct noisy workman to the exit (8)
7 When one is accommodated in a hotel, extravagance initially is foolish (7)
8 Vest worn by one in a suit (9)
13 He's succeeded in transmuting their iron (9)
15 A bet is on the cards here (9)
16 Find record's finished (8)
18 Conducted an orchestra first, one not very successful (4-3)
20 Archipelago where I arrive in ship (7)
21 Schoolchildren put up a boo-boo (4-2)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,989



WOMANISER PIQUE
E A I H E U U B
SHINGLE MAFIOSO
T Z H E A F D N
BLEAT PARTIALLY
O O R K N I
UNLAWFUL IBIS
N A L N P C E P
DOUR REPARTEE
D F S A S E
CHARACTER AIDED
O T C R M N R B
PROVISO AVOCADO
E R L L I V W A
RHYME LANDAULET

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code:

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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☐ **General:** England and Wales will be mostly dry and bright with sunny periods, but it may be more cloudy near western coasts. Over Cumbria there will be a little rain.

The far north of Scotland will be bright and very windy with scattered showers. Eastern Scotland will stay mostly dry until rain arrives in the evening. The rest of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be rather cloudy with rain at times, becoming more persistent later.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England:** dry with sunny periods. Wind brisk, southwesterly. Quite warm. Max 16 to 18C (61 to 64F).

☐ **SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England:** cloudy at times, some sunny spells. Wind fresh, southwesterly. Max 16C (64F).

☐ **Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, N Ireland:** mostly rather cloudy, rain at times, becoming more persistent later. Wind fresh to strong, southwesterly. Rather cool. Max 14 to 16C (57 to 61F).

☐ **N E England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen:** mostly dry, some bright spells, rain later. Wind fresh to strong, southwesterly. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright or sunny intervals, scattered showers. Wind strong to gale, westerly. Cold. Max 12 to 15C (54 to 59F).

☐ **Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday:** a dry start in the south. Rain in the north spreading south later.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

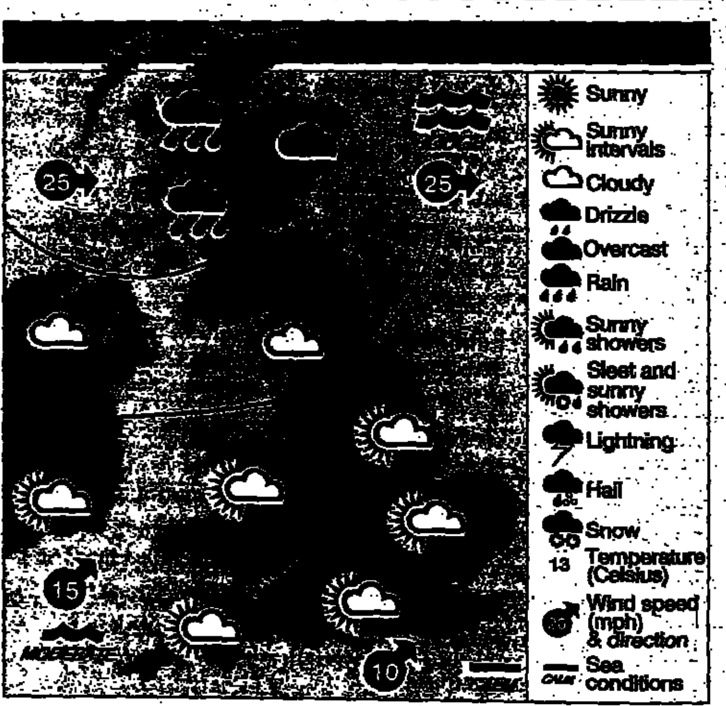
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	-	0.03	15	59	r	Liverpool	2.7	-	13	55	c
Anglesey	4.9	-	14	57	b	London	0.2	-	15	59	c
Aspatria	3.4	-	13	55	c	Lowestoft	7.7	-	15	59	s
Aviemore	1.6	0.01	14	57	c	Manchester	2.3	-	13	55	c
Belfast	1.2	-	13	55	c	Margate	-	-	14	57	du
Birmingham	3.9	-	13	55	b	Minehead	0.3	-	13	55	c
Bognor R	2.3	0.02	16	61	c	Morecambe	2.4	-	13	55	c
Bournem'th	1.8	-	15	59	c	Newcastle	8.2	-	15	59	b
Bristol	1.6	-	13	55	c	Newquay	0.7	-	14	57	c
Buxton	3.2	-	11	52	b	Norwich	8.3	-	15	59	s
Cardiff	1.0	-	13	55	c	Nottingham	X				
Clacton	4.7	-	17	63	s	Oxford	0.7	-	12	54	c
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	-	15	59	s
Colwyn Bay	6.0	-	14	57	s	Plymouth	X				
Cromer	7.4	-	15	59	s	Poole	0.3	-	15	59	c
Doncaster	X					Prestatyn	X	0.02	15	59	b
Dunbar	X					Ross-o-wye	1.9	-	13	55	c
Eastbourne	0.8	0.01	16	61	du	Salcombe	-	-	15	59	c
Edinburgh	2.6	-	14	57	c	Sandown	0.7	0.01	15	59	c
Eskdalemuir	1.5	-	12	54	c	Saunton Snd	0.8	-	13	55	du
Exmouth	0.3	-	14	57	c	Scarboro'	6.3	-	14	57	s
Falmouth	1.9	-	15	59	c	Shanklin	X				
Fishguard	1.1	-	13	55	c	Shrewsbury	2.3	0.01	13	55	c
Folkestone	0.1	-	15	59	c	Skegness	X				
Glasgow	2.4	0.01	14	57	b	Southend	X				
Guernsey	2.2	0.01	17	63	c	Southport	2.5	0.01	14	57	b
Hastings	0.6	-	17	63	c	Southsea	0.8	-	15	59	c
Hayling I.	1.5	0.01	15	59	c	St. Ives	X				
Herne Bay	X					Stornoway	0.9	0.13	13	55	r
Hove	0.5	0.02	17	63	c	Swanage	5.5	-	15	59	c
Hunstanton	9.0	-	14	57	s	Teignmouth	1.0	-	14	57	c
Isle of Man	2.4	-	14	57	c	Tenby	2.2	-	15	59	s
Jersey	3.1	0.03	17	63	c	Tiree	0.4	-	14	57	du
Kinloss	3.2	-	16	61	b	Torquay	0.8	-	15	59	c
Leeds	6.4	0.02	14	57	s	Tynemouth	5.3	-	15	59	b
Lerwick	0.2	0.20	11	52	r	Ventnor	1.2	-	15	59	c
Leuchars	3.3	-	13	55	b	Weston-s-mare	X				
Littlehmptn	0.6	0.02	16	61	c	Weymouth	2.1	-	15	59	c

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	23	73	s	Corfu	24	75	s	Madrid	21	70	s	Rome	24	75	s
Akrotiri	24	75	s	C'phagn	13	55	c	Majorca	24	75	s	S Frisco	16	61	s
Alex'dria	26	79	f	Dublin	18	64	r	Malaga	23	73	f	S Paulo	16	61	r
Algiers	23	73	f	Dubrovnik	22	72	s	Malta	24	75	f	Salzburg	12	54	c
Amst'dm	16	61	f	Faro	24	75	s	Melb'rne	23	73	c	Santiago	25	77	s
Athens	22	72	s	Florence	23	73	s	Mexico C	19	66	s	Seoul	21	70	s
B Aires	19	66	s	Frankfurt	14	57	c	Milan	14	57	fg	Sing'por	33	91	f
Bahrain	31	88	s	Funchal	24	75	f	Montreal	9	48	c	Stkholm	15	59	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Geneva	18	64	s	Moscow	6	43	c	Strasb'rg	16	61	c
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	21	70	f	Munich	11	52	c	Sydney	27	81	s
Barcelona	21	70	f	Helsinki	12	54	c	N Delhi	28	82	s	Tangier	25	77	s
Beirut	25	77	f	Hong K	26	79	s	N York	14	57	s	Tel Aviv	26	79	c
Belgrade	21	70	s	Innsbrck	17	63	s	Nairobi	27	81	f	Tenerife	26	79	f
Berlin	15	59	f	Istanbul	17	63	f	Naples	27	81	s	Tokyo	27	81	s
Bermuda	24	75	f	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	23	73	s	Toronto	13	55	s
Biarritz	27	81	s	Jo'burg	22	72	c	Oslo	13	55	r	Tunis	24	75	f
Borde'x	24	75	s	Karachi	37	99	s	Paris	18	64	s	Valencia	23	73	s
Brussels	16	61	f	L Angels	21	70	s	Peking	22	72	s	Vancv'er	10	50	r
Budapst	19	66	f	L Palmas	25	77	s	Perth	17	63	r	Venice	21	70	s
Cairo	29	84	s	Le Touqt	19	66	f	Prague	10	50	c	Vienna	14	57	c
Cape Tn	17	63	c	Lisbon	23	73	s	Reykjavik	3	37	f	Warsaw	15	59	f
Ch'church	11	52	c	Locarno	19	66	s	Rhodes	24	75	s	Wash'ton	17	63	s
Chicago	22	72	s	Luxembg	12	54	c	Rio de J	25	77	f	Wel'ngton	12	54	f
Cologne	17	63	s	Luxor	35	95	s	Riyadh	36	97	s	Zurich	17	63	s

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to chart below from noon; low A runs quickly E, then S with little development. Stationary high I declines slightly. Complex low U gradually fills

Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8:38	5.54	9:36	5.65	Leith	10:42	4.52	11:06	4.62
Aberdeen	9:55	3.82	10:05	3.87	Liverpool	7:13	7.21	7:41	7.63
Avonmouth	2:42	9.38	3:15	10.06	Lowestoft	5:15	2.30	6:16	2.26
Belfast	6:53	2.77	7:05	3.03	Margate	7:34	3.97	8:19	4.07
Cardiff	1:46	8.71	2:32	9.02	Milford Haven	2:02	5.05	2:27	5.37
Devonport	1:19	4.17	1:40	4.47	Newquay	0:59	4.83	1:29	5.07
Dover	7:08	5.81	7:40	5.39	Oban	2:31	3.01	2:37	3.22
Dublin	7:58	3.37	8:14	3.52	Penzance	0:22	4.08	0:54	4.30
Falmouth	0:47	3.77	1:11	4.08	Portland	1:31	1.30	1:37	1.44
Glasgow	7:59	3.48	8:00	3.96	Portsmouth	7:08	3.91	7:27	[illegible]
Harwich	7:02	3.13	7:54	3.27	Shoreham	7:01	4.88	7:25	[illegible]
Holyhead	6:30	4.47	6:49	4.71	Southampton	6:43	3.89	7:05	3.77
Hull	1:48	5.67	2:35	5.67	Swansea	2:08	7.09	2:31	7.58
Ilfracombe	1:28	6.78	2:02	7.07	Tees	11:54	4.23	[illegible]	[illegible]
King's Lynn	2:20	4.61	2:57	4.81	W'ton-on-Nze	6:51	3.92	7:46	3.47

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Sun rises: 7.30 am
Sun sets: 6.00 pm
Moon sets 3.46 pm
Moon rises 1.52 am

London 6.06 pm to 7.32 am
Bristol 6.16 pm to 7.42 am
Edinburgh 6.04 pm to 7.53 am
Manchester 6.05 pm to 7.44 am
Penzance 6.24 pm to 7.51 am

New Moon October 24

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 1995

Bank in hostile $10bn offer

Wells Fargo launches record US bid

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

WELLS FARGO, the San Francisco-based bank, has launched the largest takeover bid in US banking history with a $10.1 billion offer for First Interstate, a rival in Los Angeles.

The bid is the most dramatic development so far in the merger boom sweeping through the US banking industry, which has produced deals worth more than $35 billion so far this year.

The offer outstrips the merger between Chase Manhattan and Chemical Bank announced in August and is unusual in being the first hostile bid in the sector since the late 1980s. If it goes through the deal will create one of the top ten banks in America. The combined bank would have assets of about $107 billion, making it the second largest in California, although it would still be onlyhalf the size of Bank of America.

Frank Suozzo, banking analyst at SG Warburg in New York, said: "First Interstate want to fight this, but they are up against the best bank management in the country."

Wells Fargo is offering a 26 per cent premium to First Interstate's share price in an all-paper offer, but First Interstate immediately rejected the proposal as unwelcome and inadequate. William Siart, First Interstate's chairman, said: "We are deeply disappointed that Wells Fargo would take this uninvited action." He said his board would consider the offer.

Mr Siart admitted that his bank had already been in strategic talks with Wells Fargo as well as several other banks. Wells Fargo is believed to have launched its bid to forestall any other deals First Interstate may have been contemplating. Its shares are riding high since it announced a 20 per cent surge in profits for the third quarter on Tuesday.

Wells Fargo believes there are cost savings of at least $700 million to be made from combining the two banks. By acquiring First Interstate, which has operations in 13 western US states, it would also expand its own franchise, which is concentrated only in California.

Bank mergers this year have reached record levels. With a relaxation in rules restricting interstate banking, US banks are rushing to consolidate within their regions to resist competition from outside. They are also under pressure to cut costs and spend heavily on new technology. Most bankers believe only the biggest banks will survive in these conditions.

Virtually all the mergers have been made on a friendly basis, but if Wells Fargo is successful hostile bids could become more common.

First Interstate has been an active participant in the merger trend, making 17 acquisitions in the last two years. With assets of $55 billion it is the 14th largest bank in the US. After several rocky years, it has started to perform strongly and now has one of the best retail banking franchises in the US.

Wells Fargo's management is even more aggressive and highly regarded. One of its most profitable deals was to buy the rump of Crocker National Bank from Midland Bank in the 1980s when the Midland withdrew after its disastrous foray into the Californian market.

Although slightly smaller than First Interstate, Wells Fargo's policy of steady expansion while turning in consistently good profits puts it in a strong position as a bidder.

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, says long gas contracts freeze out coal plants

Coal chief seeks gas review

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

LONG-TERM contracts between power stations and electricity companies push up costs to consumers and discriminate against Britain's coal industry, Britain's biggest coal producer claims.

Richard Budge, chief executive of RJB Mining, is calling on Stephen Littlechild, director-general of electricity supply, to review contracts between developers of gas-fired plants and the regional electricity supply companies.

In a speech reminiscent of concerns raised by British Coal before it was privatised, Mr Budge said: "Long gas contracts put a stranglehold on the market and freeze out the opportunity for more economic coal-fired generation." He added: "Further gas stations are unnecessary and uneconomic and should only be licensed when it can be demonstrated consumers will benefit from cheaper electricity."

Mr Budge, whose company paid £815 million for British Coal's English mines ten months ago, said that thanks to lower costs, coal from Britain was now a highly competitive fuel. RJB has invested almost £200 million to develop its mines, he said.

Founder of DFS to net £60m

BY SARAH BAGNALL

GRAHAM KIRKHAM, founder and chairman of DFS, is set to make about £60 million from the sale of part of the shares his family holds in the furniture group that was floated two years ago.

He will also receive dividend payments worth £8.3 million as a result of the group's decision to pay a special dividend payment of 10p a share on top of a final payment of 5.65p. Mr Kirkham with his wife, son and daughter, holds 51 per cent of the equity but yesterday said he had decided to sell a third of the holding "subject to price".

The sale is likely to be via a placing at a price to be decided over the next few days through discussions with institutions. Normally placings are made at a small discount to the prevailing share price. Yesterday the shares fell 8p to 345p, compared with the flotation price of 160p.

The news of Mr Kirkham's intentions came as he unveiled a 22.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £26.2 million in the year to July 29. The better than expected result was achieved on sales of £145.1 million, up 7.6 per cent. Mr Kirkham also revealed that, as a result of DFS's growing cash pile, the directors had decided to pay a special dividend. He also indicated that the cash-generative nature of the business could result in a similar move again.

He said the group's result was "excellant" set against the backdrop of a tough retail climate, no contribution from new stores and a static housing market. He added that the "prolonged, scorching summer was obviously unhelpful".

The final dividend was lifted from 4.9p to 5.65p, making a total of 8.3p (7.2p). The final dividend, due December 15, is being paid from earnings of 16.6p a share. The special payout is due on November 20.

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BUSINESS TODAY

[illegible]		
FT-SE 100	3593.0	(+30.8)
Yield	3.93%	
FT-SE A All share	1762.78	(+11.46)
Nikkei	17895.97	(-20.63)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4788.72	(-7.22)*
S&P Composite	588.10	(+1.32)*
[illegible]		
Federal Funds	5¾%*	(5¾%)
Long Bond	107¼*	(107)
Yield	6.31%*	(6.29%)
[illegible]		
3-mth Interbank	6¾%	(6¾%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	105	(105)
[illegible]		
New York:		
$	1.5700*	(1.5730)
London:		
$	1.5699	(1.5735)
DM	2.2317	(2.2270)
FFr	7.8260	(7.8120)
SFr	1.8118	(1.8062)
Yen	157.95	(157.83)
£ Index	84.2	(84.2)
[illegible]		
London:		
DM	1.4213*	(1.4143)
FFr	4.9836*	(4.9660)
SFr	1.1542*	(1.1482)
Yen	100.60*	(100.45)
$ Index	92.9	(92.7)
Tokyo close Yen 99.85		
[illegible]		
Brent 15-day (Jan)	$16.00	(n/a)
[illegible]		
London close	$383.80	($383.50)

* denotes midday trading price

FT-SE record

The FT-SE 100 index surged 30.8 points to close at a record high of 3593.0. Dealers said the rise was caused by takeover bid speculation and further gains on Wall Street.

Markets, page 28

Marshall's job

Sir Colin Marshall, of British Airways, is set to become the next President of the CBI. He was appointed deputy president yesterday and is expected to take over the top job from Sir Bryan Nicholson, the former chairman of the Post Office, when his two-year term expires next May. Sir Colin Southgate is standing down as deputy CBI chairman.

CBI, page 26

Unemployment falls to lowest for four years

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government yesterday claimed that the largest monthly fall in unemployment this year was a clear indication that Britain remains on course for sustainable economic growth.

Ministers were delighted that the 27,200 drop in seasonally adjusted unemployment took the number of people out of work and claiming benefit to its lowest level for four years.

Though Whitehall officials were cautious about reading too much into one month's figures, especially given the impact of students over the period, they believe that the slowdown in the rate of decline in unemployment during the summer is over and that jobs recovery is under way anew.

Figures published yesterday by the Central Statistical Office showed that claimant count seasonally adjusted unemployment in September fell to 2.265 million, or 8.1 per cent. The drop — the 25th consecutive monthly fall — takes unemployment to its lowest level since May 1991, and the unemployment rate to its lowest since June of the same year.

It amounts to a cumulative fall since unemployment last peaked, in December 1992, of 713,400, and a fall over the past year of 297,000. Unemployment fell for both sexes and in every region. Unadjusted unemployment fell 57,969, to 2,292,181.

Whitehall statisticians estimate that the trend in monthly falls in adjusted unemployment is running at between 10,000 and 15,000. They are particularly satisfied with the new figures on claimaint count unemployment, which showed a fall of 256,000 over the last year.

Eric Forth, Education and Employment Minister, said: "These figures are further evidence that Britain is firmly on course for sustained, and sustainable, economic growth."

But Harriet Harman, for Labour, said that the Government had "no cause for complacency", adding: "This slowdown in the fall in unemployment is a worrying sign at a time when the recovery should be gaining ground. The Government is still not running the economy in a way that creates enough jobs."

Average earnings growth stayed at 3.25 per cent across the whole economy though earnings increases in production industries rose from 3.5 to 3.75 per cent.

Pennington, page 27

Call for Budget tax cuts as retail sales drop

BY GEORGE SIVELL

RETAIL sales dropped 0.4 per cent year-on-year in September, the first such fall since July 1992.

Analysts said the figures painted a mixed picture of the economy, but the British Retail Consortium responded by calling for Budget tax cuts to ease the burden on consumers. The Institute of Directors said that the Government should consider an interest rate cut if economic growth continues to weaken and inflation remains subdued.

The volume of sales in the high street was unchanged from the August figure, defying City forecasts of a rise from the previous month when sales were depressed by the hot weather.

The City had forecast a rise from August to September of 0.6 per cent, after a 0.8 per cent fall in August. The Treasury sought to blame food prices for yesterday's figures. It suggested that the sharp rise in food prices was responsible for a 1.3 per cent fall in food sales during September.

The more stable quarter-on-quarter comparison, however, still shows a 0.1 per cent fall in the quarter ending in September from the previous three months. Comparison with the same quarter of a year ago, however, reveals a 0.3 per cent rise.

Non-food sales rose 1.3 per cent in September after a 1.9 per cent fall in August. The increases included clothing and footwear and household goods, which all suffered price rises in September.

James May, Director-General of the British Retail Consortium, said: "These figures confirm that there is an economic case for tax cuts in the forthcoming Budget as well as a political one.

He added: "After two years of tax rises, the time has come for the Chancellor to ease the tax burden on consumers. Retailers will be looking for some action on this front in next month's Budget."

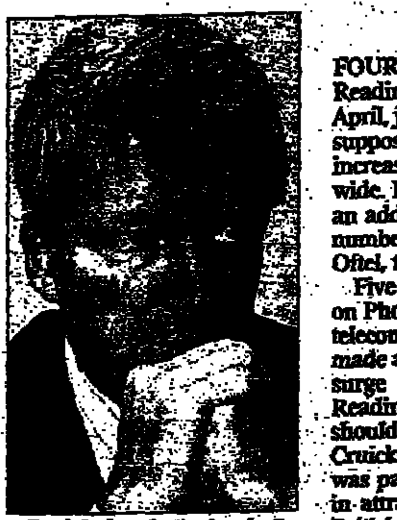
Adair Turner, Director-General of the Confederation of British Industry, said that the next move in rates should be down.

However, he added that the CBI was not yet calling for a reduction because it was unclear whether lower rates could be sustained.

Pennington, page 27

Number is up for a town's phone users

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT



Cruickshank: "mistake"

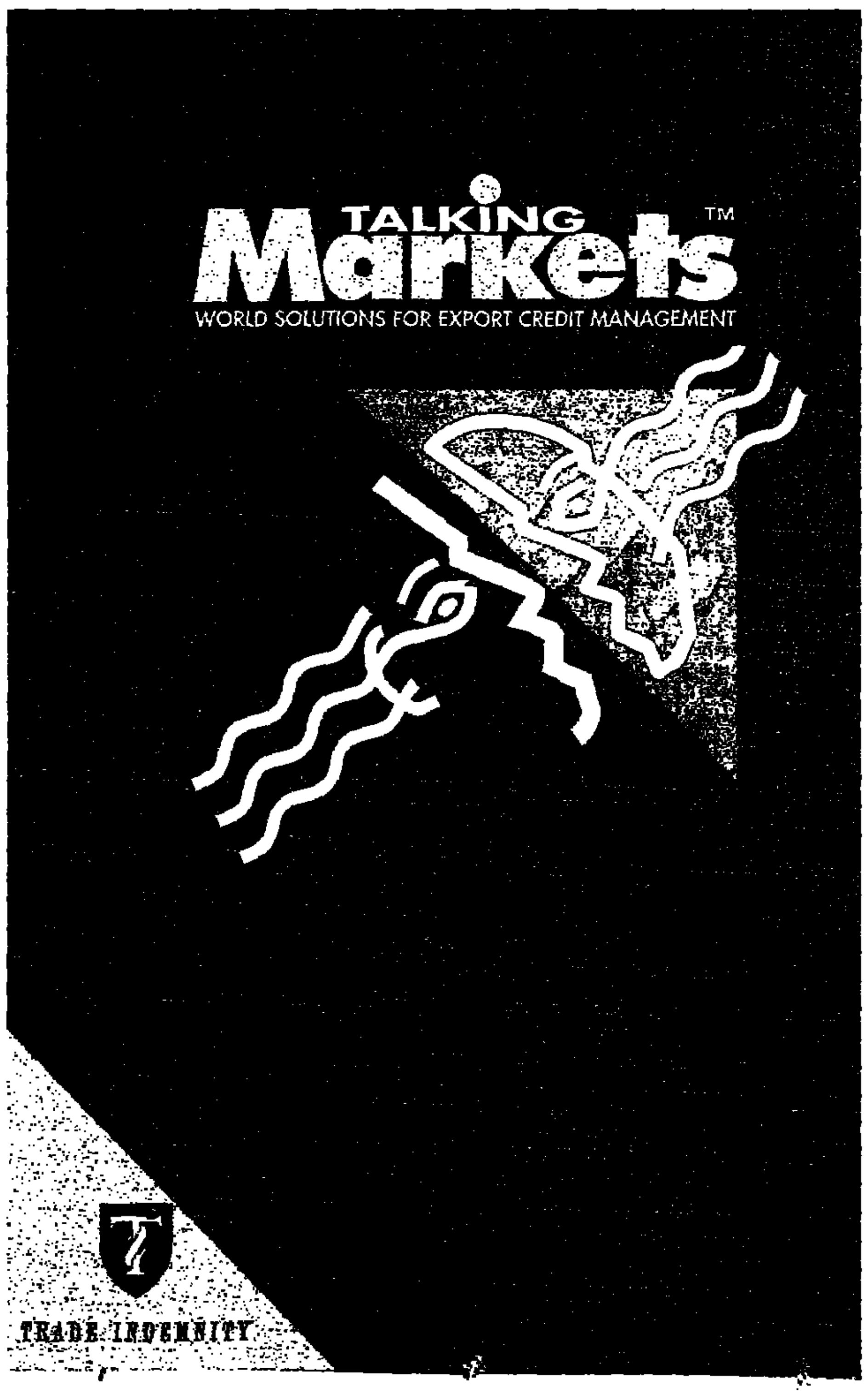
FOUR hundred thousand phone users in Reading will be given new numbers from April, just 12 months after Phoneday was supposed to have provided an eightfold increase in number availability nationwide. Plans to introduce a new code and an additional 9 on the front of Reading numbers were confirmed yesterday by Oftel, the telecoms regulatory body.

Five other cities were given new codes on Phoneday, but Don Cruickshank, the telecoms director-general, said Oftel had made a mistake in failing to spot a rapid surge in demand for phone lines in Reading. "Arguably, with hindsight, we should have done it [last] April." Mr Cruickshank said the increased demand was partly caused by the town's success in attracting high-tech industry and by British Gas adopting dial-direct numbers when relocating staff. Oftel took over responsibility for the allocation of phone numbers from BT last year because it had decided allocations gave the company too much information about its competitors. But it said BT gave no warning of the looming problem in Reading and an Oftel audit of the numbers situation was not completed until after Christmas.

"Code changes have been happening since the 1950s," Mr Cruickshank said. "You just used to get a circular stuffed through your door telling you about it. What has changed is that we are being up-front about the changes and consulting people." From April, the 01734 code for Reading numbers will be supplemented by an alternative code of 0118, which will work when a 9 is added to the beginning of a local number. After 18 months so-called "parallel running", the existing code will be dropped.

Mr Cruickshank said that because of inefficiencies in the way Britain's phone numbering system works, only 40 per cent of available numbers can be used. Reading is now close to the 40 per cent threshold, and only adding a seventh digit can make additional numbers available. An Oftel study has identified six other code areas where "less urgent" number shortages are looming: Belfast, Cardiff, inner and outer London, Portsmouth, and Southampton.

Adding a 1 after the first 0 of national dialling codes in April did not change the number of numbers available, but it did create the option of an additional eight billion new numbers in the future.



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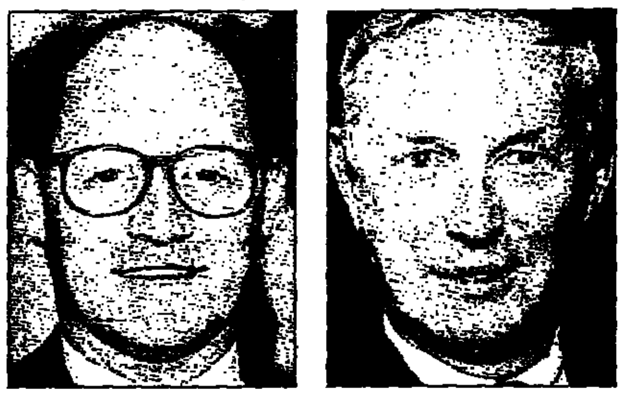
Reforms could reduce status of the MMC

Greater powers planned for OFT

By Arthur Leathley and Graham Searjeant



Jonathan Evans, left, and John Bridgeman, of the OFT

THE Government is preparing to give the Office of Fair Trading greater investigatory powers, allowing it to clear up more cases without reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Jonathan Evans, the Competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, made clear yesterday that ministers were ready to enhance the powers of the OFT and John Bridgeman, its new Director-General, to act more like a unitary competition authority.

Mr Evans said in a letter to the all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee that he intended to make the OFT "a more effective body able to clear up more cases quickly without recourse to an MMC reference. This would enable the OFT to behave more like a unitary authority in both investigating competition problems and implementing remedies".

The powers of the MMC would also be changed to give it "a primarily adjudicating role", retaining powers to make decisions when an OFT judgment was contested. Mr Evans, taking up suggestions put forward in July by the trade and industry committee, said that the changes would "require some rebalancing of the roles of the OFT and MMC".

The reform could reduce the MMC to the status of an appeal body in merger cases, the same role it plays in relations between utilities and their regulators. Although the MMC is now headed by Graeme Odgers, a former top businessman, its recommendations reflect its independent judicial status.

Mr Bridgeman, a former Alcan executive, is thought to be sympathetic to the idea that companies should be more free to conduct mergers, provided a quid pro quo is given to consumers to offset any loss of competition.

Reforms of the two bodies may be included in next month's Queen's Speech outlining legislation for the next session of Parliament. Ministers plan to consult, possibly early next year, over the best ways to implement the changes.

Strengthening of the OFT powers may have implications for increased staff numbers, likely to be resisted by the Treasury on cost grounds. However, the Trade and Industry Department believes that some staff could be transferred directly from the MMC.

Undertakings to be given in lieu of a reference to the MMC will continue and the Director-General of Fair Trading will still be able to make interim relief orders. The moves will cut the number of cases referred to the MMC.

The move will be seen as a compromise falling short of the merger of the OFT and most of the MMC called for by Sir Bryan Carsberg, the former Director-General of Fair Trading, and since taken up by the Labour Party.

At present, the OFT undertakes preliminary vetting of proposed mergers and takeovers and is encouraged to strike private deals with companies to offset likely damage to competition. If it thinks there is still a *prima facie* case against a merger, however, it can only recommend the President of the Board of Trade to refer it to the MCC. The MMC then conducts formal hearings and issues a published report to the President, making its judgment on a broad public interest test.

Mr Evans held his first business meeting with the Director-General of Fair Trading yesterday since Mr Bridgeman took office at the start of the month. Mr Bridgeman will be hoping that the Government will also legislate in the coming session of Parliament on the basis of its White Paper on restrictive practices.

The OFT is anxious that uncompetitive behaviour should be made a statutory offence and that it should be given more powers to combat such practices.

Pennington, page 27

Talk grows of BAT deal to buy Gartmore

SPECULATION mounted in the City last night that BAT Industries, the tobacco-to-financial services group, was in advanced talks with Banque Indosuez, to buy Gartmore, one of the UK's leading fund management houses. The market had been expecting an announcement from the French bank that it had sold its 75 per cent stake in Gartmore after the close of trading yesterday.

Banque Indosuez indicated last month its willingness to sell its shares in Gartmore, which manages more than £23 billion of funds invested in a range of unit and investment trusts and pensions schemes. BAT is known to be very keen to add Gartmore to its stable of financial services groups that includes Allied-Dunbar, Eagle Star and Threadneedle Asset Management. Last week Gartmore shares jumped on rumours that Dresdner, the German bank, was making a bid. But BAT is still regarded as a frontrunner. Paul Myners, Gartmore chairman, declined to comment.

Plea from small firms

SMALL FIRMS today called on the Government to abolish the business rates system in a bid to ease the financial burden on shops and smaller companies. The uniform business rate should be replaced with a new system that takes into account a firm's ability to pay, the Federation of Small Business said. The business rate raises more than £12 billion from 1.6 million business ratepayers, compared with the £7.4 billion from 20 million houses raised by the council tax. The federation described the business rate as a "killer" and said that firms could go under if the rate was increased in the Budget.

Polaroid out of focus

POLAROID suffered a 19 per cent drop in third-quarter profits, blaming a decline in US sales and costs associated with establishing its own distribution system in Japan. The company earned $23.7 million, or 51 cents per share, in the three months to September 30, compared with $29.3 million, or 62 cents per share a year earlier. Sales rose to $580 million from $576.7 million, boosted by an 11 per cent rise in international sales. Domestic sales dropped 9 per cent. For the first nine months, Polaroid lost $29.2 million, or 64 cents per share, compared with a profit of $59.9 million.

US deficit shrinks

BOOMING overseas sales helped to shrink America's deficit on trade in goods and services sharply in August to the smallest total for any month this year, the Commerce Department reported yesterday. The trade shortfall dropped 21.2 per cent from July's total to $8.82 billion, well under Wall Street economists' forecasts of $11 billion. The controversial deficit with Japan fell in August for a fifth consecutive month, while strong sales of aircraft and computers brought down the deficit with Western Europe. Total exports rose 3.7 per cent to a record $65.74 billion. Imports were flat at $74.56 billion.

Black & Decker rises

BLACK & DECKER said aggressive cost-cutting and productivity improvements helped to boost profits 48 per cent in the third quarter. Net earnings increased to $43.5 million, or 46 cents a share, from $29.3 million, or 31 cents a share. Sales grew 4 per cent to $1.38 billion ($1.32 billion). Subsidiaries making security and plumbing hardware, glass container-making equipment and fastening systems all performed well. Earnings for the nine months climbed 55 per cent to $104 million, or $1.09 a share, from $66.9 million. Sales advanced to $3.91 billion ($3.63 billion).

More building gloom

The workload of Britain's recession-hit construction industry declined by a further 2 per cent during the past three months, according to a survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. Confidence about prospects for the rest of the year is "very low", according to responses from 200 firms that participated in the survey. Richard Houghton, the RICS construction spokesman, said that rationalisation and poor orders could cost a further 100,000 jobs in the industry during the next three years unless there was a substantial pick-up in demand.

Extra Gucci shares

THE number of Gucci shares to be offered in the forthcoming stock market sell-off is to be increased in response to investor demand. The number of new shares to be issued by Gucci will remain at 13.5 million but the number of shares to be sold by Investcorp, which at present owns all the Gucci stock, will be raised from 2.5 million to 11 million. After flotation, Codia, a holding company indirectly controlled by Investcorp, will own 51 per cent of Gucci. The offer is expected to close tomorrow and the price is expected to be set on Monday. Trading is expected to start on Tuesday.

CBI leaders say Labour is no longer anti-business

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LEADERS of the Confederation of British Industry acknowledged yesterday for the first time that the Labour Party was now no longer opposed to business in the UK.

While the CBI statement stops well short of any kind of endorsement of the Labour Party led by Tony Blair, it is the furthest Britain's principal business body has yet gone in accepting the extent to which Labour has changed in its attitudes towards business.

Labour and the Conservatives have recently made big attempts to secure business support before the general election — including Labour's BT net deal — and CBI leaders said yesterday after their monthly council meeting that it was "nice to be wooed".

Adair Turner, CBI Director-General, said: "We now have an opposition party which is no longer putting forward policies which are deeply antipathetic to business."

He said business remained concerned about specific issues, including Labour's commitment to sign the European social chapter and to introduce a minimum wage, though he welcomed Labour's shift in policy on a national minimum wage at its conference this month. Labour dropped its policy to set a minimum wage by a rigid earnings-linked formula, and decided to set it after consulting employers and employees. Mr Turner said this evidence of flexibility would mean a minimum wage with fewer job losses. But despite concerns about how far Labour backbenchers supported both changes and Mr Blair, he said: "They have moved a significant way, and that's welcome."

On the economy, CBI leaders struck a "cautiously optimistic" note, suggesting the next move in interest rates ought to be down — though adding there was no case for such a move now. Mr Turner said conflicting evidence made the current economic climate hard to read, though he disagreed with the assessment by the Institute of Directors this week that economic growth was not pausing, but was moving into a "downturn."

While he maintained that the economic picture was varied, he accepted that the economy had slowed recently, adding that the room for tax cuts in the Budget still depended on the level of public borrowing and government success in controlling public spending.

Finishing touches: the RAF's new Lockheed Martin Hercules C-130J just prior to being rolled out yesterday

RAF's new Hercules rolled out

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

THE first of a new generation of Hercules transport aircraft destined for the Royal Air Force was rolled out of the production hanger at Marietta, Georgia, yesterday by Lockheed Martin, the American defence company.

Twenty-five C130-J aircraft were ordered by the RAF last year under a £1 billion contact to replace the oldest aircraft in the RAF's fleet. The aircraft, based on a design which has now been flying for more than 30 years, has also been ordered by the United States Air Force and several others.

Meanwhile, efforts by Europe's aerospace industry to win government backing to design a larger replacement tactical transport, the Future Large Aircraft (FLA) brightened last week. Volker Ruhe, the German Defence Minister, said Germany was willing to set aside 4.3 billion marks to fund its share of development costs and the purchase of 75 aircraft.

Backed by its government, Daimler-Benz Aerospace now seems determined to wrest the job of designing the wings from British Aerospace, Europe's leading wing specialist. Britain's credibility as a partner in European defence programmes has been damaged, both by its purchase of the C130 and the selection this summer of Apache, an American attack helicopter.

More new homes needed

By Robert Miller

NEARLY a quarter of a million new homes need to be built every year between now and 2011 if the demand from private owners and for subsidised rented accommodation is to be met. In that time, the number of households is expected to grow to 22.7 million from 19.2 million in 1991.

A report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation says that the "explosive" growth in homeownership seen in the 1980s, when owner-occupation rose from 58 to 67 per cent, will not be repeated in the next 20 years. The foundation predicts that the percentage of people owning their homes will reach a "near plateau" of about 70 per cent by 2011.

The author of the report, Alan Holmans of Cambridge University, who retired last year as chief housing economist at the Department of Environment, says that the causes of the slowdown include income instability, higher levels of mortgage default and fewer tenants exercising the "Right to Buy".

Between 1990 and 1994, nearly 300,000 mortgaged properties were repossessed. "This unprecedented setback for home ownership has underlined the degree to which a mortgage in the 1990s has become a more hazardous undertaking," he said.

Allan Wilén, of the National Council of Building Material Producers, calculates that the average number of new homes built annually has fallen to 161,000 in 1995 from 180,000 in the early 1990s.

☐ Monthly mortgage lending fell by 7 per cent in September and by 5 per cent year-on-year, according to the Barclays Mortgage Index.

The Guinness appeal

'Terrifying' use of indemnities

By Melvyn Marckus

LORD Taylor of Gosforth, the Lord Chief Justice, described the City's confusion over the use of indemnities and the scale of such activities as "rather terrifying" at the third day of the Guinness appeal.

Lord Taylor's remark came after the revelation by Nicholas Purnell, QC, for Anthony Parnes, a former stockbroker, that the advice of leading City law firms such as Clifford Turner and Slaughter & May had been sought in connection with transactions that involved controversial indemnity arrangements.

The City's confusion was illustrated by a Bank of England meeting held on June 2, 1987, regarding Henry Ansbacher's involvement in indemnity-based transactions. It was acknowledged at the meeting, headed by Brian Quinn, head of banking supervision, that section 151 of the Companies Act — which prohibits a company from purchasing its own shares — was a "grey area", the interpretation of which was unclear. It was also acknowledged that share price support operations were considered common practice in certain situations.

Mr Purnell argued that the non-disclosure of the findings of the TWH Tribunal and other information in the possession of the Serious Fraud Office was prejudicial to Mr Parnes's defence. It was also contrary to directions given by Mr Justice Henry, who presided over the Guinness trial, to "let the defence into the quarry".

The TWH Tribunal focused on TWH Management's support for six bid situations including Next/Grattan and LHSB/Good Relations — details of which were not released until the second trial when Lord Spens, one of the defendants, contended that "indemnities were all the rage". Mr Purnell also claimed that the prosecution knew of DTI inquiries into Gerald Ronson's share purchases in Debenhams during the Burton takeover battle and DTI investigations into TWH and Henry Ansbacher.

In response to an earlier request from Lord Taylor, Mr Purnell produced a list of takeover situations, including Turner & Newall/AE, with a breakdown of indemnities, possible infringements of Section 151 and success fees.

Mr Parnes, Mr Ronson, Ernest Saunders and Jack Lyons are all appealing against their convictions following the 113-day trial in 1990.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.21	2.05
Austria Sch	16.73	15.23
Belgium Fr	48.75	44.48
Canada $	2.218	2.058
Cyprus Cyp£	0.749	0.694
Denmark Kr	9.26	8.46
Finland Mkk	7.31	6.66
France Fr	8.22	7.57
Germany Dm	2.38	2.17
Greece Dr	382.00	357.00
Hong Kong $	12.83	11.83
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1200	4.4700
Italy Lira	2615.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	171.50	165.50
Malta	0.598	0.549
Netherlds Gld	2.646	2.416
New Zealand $	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	10.40	9.60
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.42
Spain Pta	198.50	186.50
Sweden Kr	11.49	10.69
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76
Turkey Lira	refer	78060.0
USA $	1.674	1.544

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☐ Jobless and sales down in a mixed economy ☐ DTI plan for a super-OFT ☐ Singapore looks to limit the damage

Signals on amber for Ken

☐ THE new CBI leader, Adair Turner, was right to strike a cautious note when trying to read the runes of the economy from the latest mixed bag of indicators. The largest fall in unemployment this year was accompanied by a set of retail sales figures flat enough to play snooker on.

Some industries have been making their feelings plain enough for some time: the construction industry has been shouting about the return of recession loud enough to wake, if not the dead, then at least the officials toiling away on the Budget at the Treasury.

The official retail sales figures are gloomy enough, though the high street has known for many months that too few shoppers are coming in through their doors, and of those who are, not enough are confident enough about the economy, about their homes and about their jobs to dig into their pockets.

The labour market at least looks better. After two years of improving unemployment figures, the monthly falls this year have been shrinking, only to disappear entirely in June.

But August's drop in the number of jobless and yesterday's even bigger fall were much larger than the City expected and may be indicating an unexpected improvement in the job market.

What all this means for government policy is clearly a continuation of the current recipe, though it is clear that the next move in interest rates needs to be downward, even if it does not come immediately.

The real danger is a political one. The Chancellor runs the risk of upsetting this delicate and far from wholly positive economic balance with a Budget that provides the cuts in taxes that worried Tories believe are vital if they are to stand any chance of saving their own electoral skins.

The mixed signals coming from the economic indicators suggest that Kenneth Clarke will have to pull off some spectacular economic conjuring next month when he hauls out the familiar battered red box.

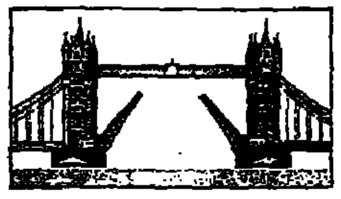
No monopoly on change

☐ AS Monopolies and Mergers Commission references of important takeover bids seem to have gone the way of the dodo and the Great Auk, there is perhaps no harm in restricting the powers of that body and boosting those of what is increasingly the real judge on competition matters, the Office of Fair Trading.

Any number of brewing bids over the past decade have been exhaustively probed by the Commission, yet the latest, the Scottish & Newcastle purchase of Courage, creating the largest concentration of market power so far, went through after relatively weak conditions were imposed. Likewise the electricity industry has been widely restructured without any MMC scrutiny as yet.

Now the Department of Trade proposes to formalise the *de facto* position, which is that the MMC is only brought in if the OFT and the bidder cannot reach agreement. Given the flexibility the OFT has shown of late, such agreement may not prove difficult to achieve — it has even been brokered by the DTI itself, as with S&N/Courage when the list of pre-conditions that could clear the deal was drawn up by the department and sent back to both parties for their acceptance.

PENNINGTON



The Government's inclination to allow mergers if they serve the needs of business was made explicit by Jonathan Evans before the Commons Select Committee yesterday, when he spoke of "the very real risk of muzzling the competitive instincts of our businessmen and women". The committee by contrast favours a spirit of prohibition towards the abuse of market power, as well as a merged OFT/MMC from which there is no appeal.

Mr Evans countered that with the importance attached by industry to a separation of powers, for which read that no government department, and certainly not his own, is going to relinquish its powers as court of last appeal. Instead the Government favours a super-OFT dealing with most cases of anti-competitive behaviour. Fine if that body remembers it was created as the main protector of the consumer; but the appointment this year of a businessman to head it has already raised fears that the Government may see it in a different role.

Barings chiefs avoid the rap

☐ THE notion of Peter Norris or any other Barings executive being extradited from London to Singapore to face charges for destroying Barings Bank is as likely as Nick Leeson getting life imprisonment when his trial on the island is finally completed.

The Singapore authorities were very keen yesterday to make it clear that their Commercial Affairs Division was investigating the possiblity of extraditing senior Barings executives and trying them for criminal activities. The CAD, like any such investigating body, exists to carry out such work. But in reality the last thing the authorities want is the board of Barings in the dock. At almost seven thousand miles distance from London there is much more they can do to help the much-needed damage limitation exercise for their newly emerging financial industry.

The collapse of Barings was originally blamed on one rogue trader running riot on the Simex market. The authorities had to do something to enhance the international credibility of Simex, or risk every other international bank taking fright and pulling out of Singapore for fear of a similar downfall.

It is now generally accepted that Barings would not have collapsed as a result of Leeson's illicit dealings alone. It was the blank cheques being signed and deaf ears being turned in London that finished off 233 years of banking history.

When Leeson appears in court he is likely to be treated as the small cog he was. If James Bax, Leeson's regional boss currently in Singapore and unable to leave until his passport is handed back, is charged, he might throw light on just how strict — or not — Singaporean supervision was. He had after all sent the warning memo on the flawed Barings system of having back and front offices under one person well before Leeson even arrived on the island.

Leeson will now face a show trial designed both to demonstrate a fair system of Singaporean justice and indicate to the financial world that London, and not the local market, is culpable. Singapore has already talked to British public relations firms about handling the damage limitation. But when Leeson gets a fair sentence, London is seen as the lax, even risky regulator, and Simex has its image restored, then the Singaporean game will have been played out.

EMUlating Helmut

☐ HANS TIETMEYER, like Dickens's Joe the Fat Boy, wants to make our flesh creep about the disciplines needed to maintain a Eurocurrency. Like Helmut Kohl's warning a few weeks back about delays to a single currency, his remarks are addressed to those among the German electorate who fear they will lose out, no matter their effect on Europhobes and Europhiles alike. By invoking the horrors of the world after EMU he is doing his best to delay its arrival.

US losses and higher costs hit Body Shop

By Sarah Bagnall

HIGHER costs and losses from the ailing American stores resulted in Body Shop, the eco-friendly retailer, reporting a bigger than expected drop in interim profits.

Pre-tax profits dropped from £12.3 million to £9.1 million in the 26 weeks to August 26. The drop in profits took place in spite of a 15 per cent rise in retail sales to £238.7 million. Group turnover grew 13 per cent to £105.4 million.

John Richards, an analyst at NatWest Securities, said: "The results were a disappointment, but had been signposted by the group." In May, the retailer gave a warning to shareholders that profits growth was expected to be minimal in the current year.

Yesterday, Gordon Roddick, the chairman, reiterated that "we do not anticipate much change in the level of pre-tax profit for the full year compared with 1995".

The first-half results included a few surprises, such as the losses incurred in the US were slightly more than City forecasts, while the emergence of Australasia as the latest trouble spot added to the gloom surrounding the company.

Body Shop also revealed that the costs of restructuring the group had crept ahead £3 million to £16 million, of which £12.5 million was spent in the first half. First-half operating costs rose 30 per cent. The sum effect of these factors resulted in the share price sliding 6p to 135p.

Gordon Roddick says store-opening plan is on course

The group opened 90 stores during the first half, taking the total to 1,300 spread over 45 countries. Of the total stores, 262 are in the US, 245 in the UK, and 65 in Australia and New Zealand. The worst sales performances were suffered by the US and Australasia stores that both saw like-for-like sales declines of 8 per cent. At the other end of the spectrum were the 142 Asian stores, which lifted underlying sales by 15 per cent, fuelled by a strong performance in Japan.

The stores in America incurred a loss of £2.4 million, compared with a profit of £1.5 million last time, while the Australasian stores made a profit of £900,000, against £600,000 last time. In the UK, sales rose 5 per cent to £63.5 million, with underlying sales growth of 2 per cent. However, the UK's stores profit contribution fell £1.4 million to £2.9 million, reflecting the increased operating costs.

Mr Roddick said that the group was on course to reach its target of opening 150 stores in the year.

Net debt rose from £18 million to £23.2 million, resulting in gearing of 20 per cent. The interim dividend was lifted from 0.9p to 1.08p. The dividend, due on January 11, is being paid out of earnings of 2.8p a share, down from 4.2p last time.

Tempus, page 28

News International in digital technology deal

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

NEWS INTERNATIONAL, owner of *The Times*, has bought the Advanced Products Division of NTL, the transmission company, in a move designed to put the company at the forefront of the international digital broadcasting industry.

The deal, for an undisclosed sum, will give News Technology Group, the technology arm of the News Corporation, parent of News International, access to NTL's digital broadcasting technology. It is a leader in the technogy of digital broadcasting including compression, multiplexing, modulation and decoder boxes. The Advanced Products Division has been instrumental in helping to develop MPEG-2, the Europe-wide digital video standard.

Abe Peled, chief executive of News Digital Systems and News Datacom, two of the companies involved in News International's technology activities, said he hoped to turn the new company, Digi-Media Vision, into a UK-based "technology powerhouse". He said: "We are committed to accelerate the development of world-wide open standards." and essential technologies in

Analysts said the deal would be "extremely valuable" to News Corp and to News International, which also owns 40 per cent of BSkyB, the satellite broadcasting company. Katherin Pelly, of Warburgs, said: "NTL is at the cutting edge of digital compression technology. The deal means that News Corp are likely to be the people with the system adopted as the industry standard."

Legal action over Leeson

NICK LEESON'S British lawyer last night called on the Singapore authorities to clarify remarks made by officials there that Singapore was prepared to plea bargain.

Lawrence Ang, director of Commercial Affairs Division, investigating the £860 million Barings collapse, had said that Singapore might try to extradite some of the merchant banks senior management to stand trial if they were found to have committed criminal offences.

Mr Ang also said a plea bargain with Mr Leeson, who is fighting extradition to Singapore on 11 charges of cheating and forgery, might be possible. **Pennington, page 27**

WH Smith up on hope for new chief

By Sarah Bagnall

SHARES of WH Smith, the retailer, rose 21p yesterday to 377p on hopes that the search for a new chief executive had been completed.

Analysts said the rally in the shares had little to do with a statement at the annual meeting, where Jeremy Hardie, chairman, revealed first-half profits would be reduced by a £20 million provision to cover costs of redundancies, increased advertising, and the running of a business supplies' warehouse in Andover, Hampshire.

Mr Hardie told shareholders that group sales were 8 per cent ahead in the three months to September 2. He said: "Despite a summer of very hot weather, which is not helpful to our business, our UK retailing businesses' sales were up 7.4 per cent; an encouraging performance."

The core retail business achieved sales growth of 2.8 per cent, with like-for-like sales growth of 1.4 per cent. Underlying sales at Virgin Our Price rose 12.6 per cent and at Waterstone's 6.2 per cent.

Mr Hardie said the company had had a difficult year but that "firm action across the group" had been taken.

Tempus, page 28

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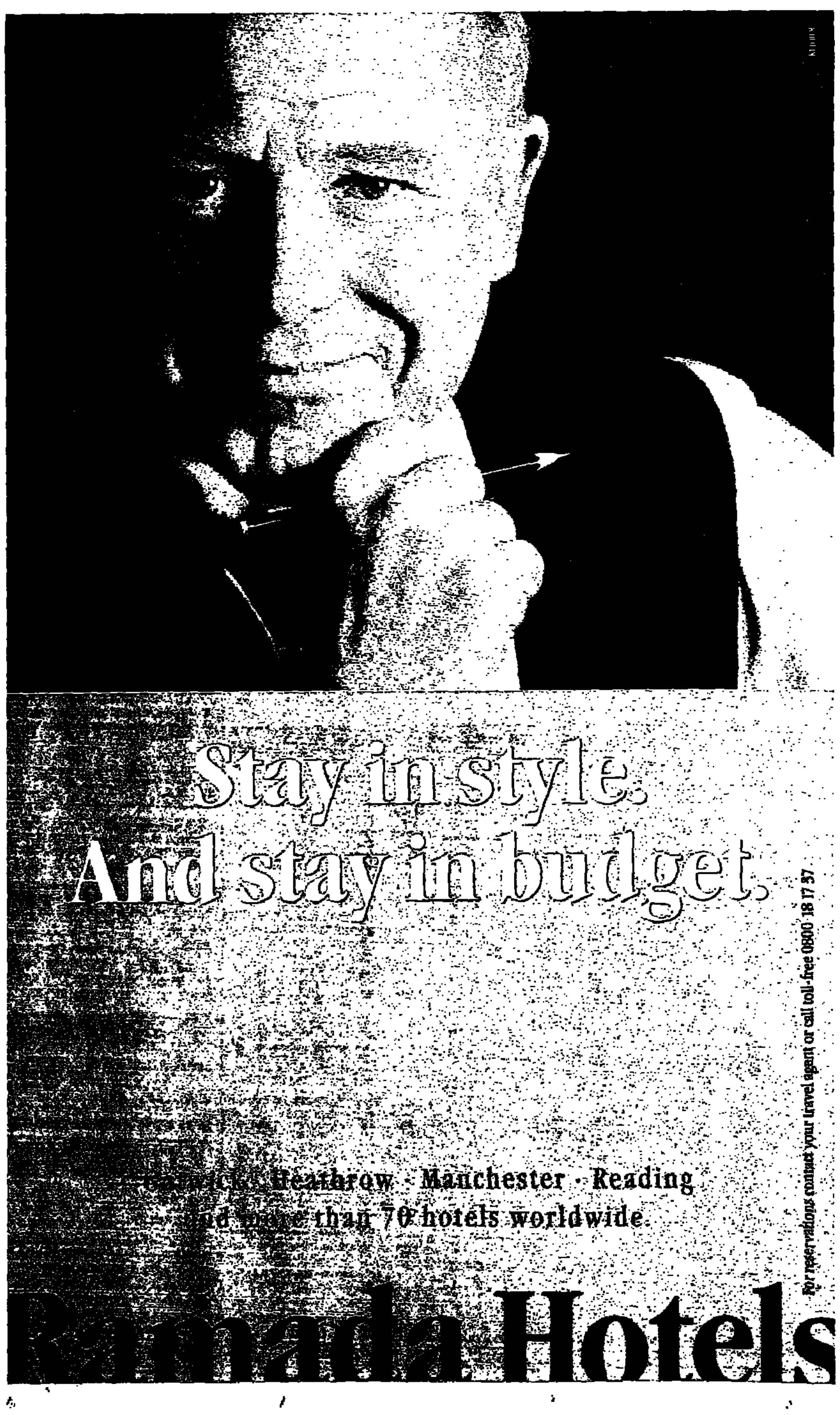
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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

Trafalgar House sinks as index hits new high

SHARES of **Trafalgar House**, the *Queen Elizabeth 2 shipping to construction group*, slumped to an all-time low as the City continued to take an increasingly pessimistic view of prospects.

The price touched 18½p before ending 2½p lower at 21p as a staggering 70.4 million shares, around 3½ per cent of the company, changed hands. This included an agency *cross involving 28.4 million* ordinary shares and 9.5 million convertibles carried out by Kleinwort Benson, the broker, on behalf of Robert Fleming, which is believed to have transferred the shares from one fund to another.

The Trafalgar price has plunged from the 70p level since it first made its aborted *bid for Northern Electric in* September last year. Sentiment was also affected by the controversial *QE2* refit in *Germany earlier this year*.

Weighed down by growing debt and the decline in the construction industry, the *group has been forced to take* drastic action. Earlier this month, it sold the Ritz Hotel to the Barclay brothers for £75 million.

Meanwhile, the rest of the equity market extended its record-breaking run as share prices continued to build up a head of steam in the belief that another major bid is about to materialise.

The FT-SE 100 index touched an all-time high of 3,598 before ending the session *30.8* points up at a new closing high of 3,593.0 as 753 million shares were traded. It was a performance that failed to *impress the market-makers, many of whom have been* thrown into confusion by the market's recent gyrations.

Most of them have endeavoured this week to pick the top of the market with little success. Having gone short, they *are now trying desperately to* cover their exposed positions without much success.

Once again there was no *shortage of bid speculation*, with the financial sector continuing to lead the way. **Gartmore** climbed 5p to 293p *in late trading, with news of a* bid from BAT expected any day.

BAT is believed to be locked in talks with *Banque* Indosuez, which put the "for sale" sign up on its 75 per cent stake in Gartmore last month. *BAT, 2p lighter at 548p, is* thought to be desperate to buy Gartmore to add to its extensive financial services opera*tion, which already* includes Allied Hambro, Eagle Star and Farmers in the US. Banque Indosuez's *stake may fetch up to £400 million*.

Elsewhere, the focus of attention fell on the insurers. The composites, where there has been persistent talk of a bid, were marked sharply higher after Kleinwort Benson and ABN Amro Hoare Govett both issued buy recommendations for **General Accident**, up 23p at 686p. **Commercial Union** also responded with a rise of 26p to 624p and there were gains for **Royal**, 26½p to 411½p, ***Sun Alliance***, 16p to 389p and **Guardian Royal Exchange**, 7p to 241p. ABN Amro Hoare Govett gave another push to the *life assur*ance companies with **Britannic** adding 30p at 705p, **Prudential** 14½p at 397½*p* and **London and Manchester** 8p at 390p.

Persistent talk of a bid lifted **Royal Bank of Scotland** another 20p to a peak of 554p. Last week, the speculators were talking about a possible merger with Bank of Scotland, up 5½p at 263p. This week they are bracing themselves for a bid from **HSBC**, 9p better at 960p, which would bring Midland Bank and First Direct together with *RBS*'s fast growing Direct Line insurance business. Almost 10 million shares were traded.

Pearson moved *smartly* ahead with a rise of 14p to 642p ahead of a presentation for brokers tomorrow arranged by Panmure Gordon, the broker, at which it will outline future strategy. The City has been speculating for some weeks about a possible break-up of the company, with Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, calculating a figure of £9 a share.

The bears were on the run in **WH Smith** *as the share price* surged 21p to 377p. Shareholders at the annual meeting were given a rosy picture of prospects with sales up 8 per cent in the first quarter. It even enabled the shares to shrug off news of a £20 million restructuring charge to be set against first half profits.

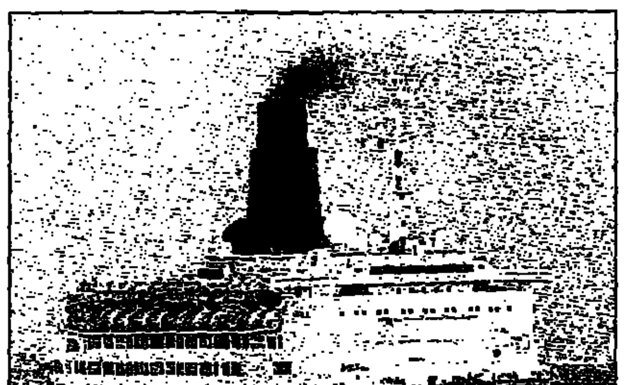
An unexpected drop in first-*half figures left* ***Body Shop*** 6plower at 135p. Pre-tax profits were down 26 per cent at £9.1 million with the group blam*ing difficult trading conditions* in the US and a sharp rise in operating costs. Gordon Roddick, chairman, said he *does not expect much change* in full-year profits in spite of the group's US operations swinging into the red.

Shares in ***Bluebird Toys*** surged 97p to 367p, on volume of three million shares, after the toys group announced a key product development and marketing deal with the Walt Disney Company and Mattel. Tim Steer, at Merrill Lynch, has raised his 1996 pre-tax profit forecast for Bluebird from £23 million to £24.5 million.

☐ GILT-EDGED: The current strength of the equity market spilled over with *prices marked higher at the* outset. Sentiment was given a further boost by the unchanged retail sales number, which was far better than most brokers had predicted. But the best levels were not always held and prices dipped towards the close, reflecting a sharp drop in the deficit of US trade in goods and services during August.

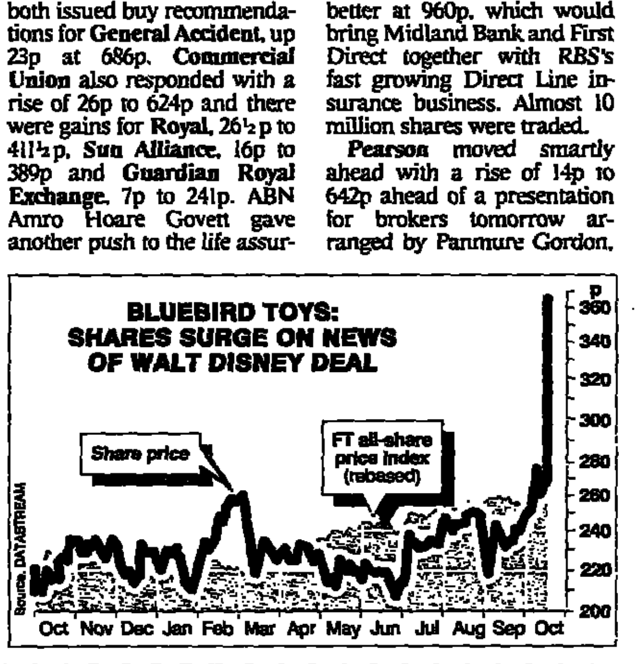
In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt advanced £⅜ to £$105^{19}/_{32}$ as the number of contracts completed surged to 74,000. Treasury 8 per cent 2013 jumped £$^{11}/_{32}$ to £$97^{9}/_{32}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{7}/_{32}$ better at £$101^{25}/_{32}$.

☐ NEW YORK: On Wall Street, a rally in high technol*ogy stocks followed strong* quarterly results from Microsoft, but the Dow Jones industrial average was down 7.22 *points at* 4,788.72 *by* midday.



The QE2 refit was one problem for Trafalgar House

Dalgety, the Spillers and Homepride group, dropped 5p to 424p. A total of 14.3 million shares changed hands in a marketplace where traders will normally only make a price in parcels of 25,000. Brokers say the price has been depressed by talk of at least 5 million shares overhanging the City.



BLUEBIRD TOYS: SHARES SURGE ON NEWS OF WALT DISNEY DEAL

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 4788.72 (-7.22)
S&P Composite .... *588.10 (+1.32)*

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 17895.97 (-20.63)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 9973.70 (-59.23)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index .... 457.77 (+1.20)

Sydney:
AO .... 2111.4 (+2.5)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 2194.81 (-6.22)

Singapore:
Straits .... *2104.89 (+5.51)*

Brussels:
General .... 7738.04 (-30.05)

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 1770.66 (-9.08)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 702.20 (+4.20)

London:
FT 30 .... 2636.5 (+16.2)
FT 100 .... 3593.0 (+30.8)
FT-SE Mid 250 .... 3941.3 (+4.4)
FT-SE-A 350 .... 1785.3 (+12.3)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100 .... 1412.52 (+5.79)
FT A All-Share .... 1762.78 (+11.46)
FT Non Financials .... *1867.8 (+7.86)*
FT Fixed Interest .... 111.09 (-0.07)
FT Govt Secs .... 92.93 (+0.11)
Bargains 29659
SEAQ Volume 784.5m
USM (Datastrm) .... *181.27 (-0.23)*
US$ .... 1.5697 (-0.0041)
German Mark .... *2.2337 (+0.0039)*
Exchange Index .... 84.2 (same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)
£:ECU 1.1937
£:SDR 1.0515
RPI .... 150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX .... 149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Cons Coal (50)	*68*	...
Euro Sales Fin	130	...
German Sir Wrts	18	...
Hay & Robertson	39	...
MultiMedia (45)	60	...
Murray Vct	105	...
Omnicare	86	...
Pemberstone	*60*	...
Pictet British (100)	102	...
Preston Nth (400)	400	...
SCS Sat Sys (125)	121	...
Univ Sal (149)	183	...
Upton & Sthn Wts	½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alumasc n/p (320)	110	- 4
Anglo-East n/p (105)	8	- 3
Baris n/p (16)	2	...
Forth Ports n/p (490)	73	...
RMC n/p (950)	128	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Bluebird Toys .... 367p (+97p)
JBA Hldgs .... 360p (+42p)
Hornby .... 167p (+10p)
Smith WH .... 377p (+21p)
Tottenhm Hot .... 205p (+10p)
Britannic .... 705p (+30p)
Com Union .... 624p (+26p)
Sun Alliance .... 389p (+16p)
Royal Bk Scot .... 554p (+20p)
Gen Accident .... 686p (+23p)
Amstrad .... 283p (+9p)
GUS .... 592p (+18p)
Abbey National .... 568p (+11p)
Br Aerospace .... 739p (+11p)

FALLS:
Eurodollar .... 128p (-10p)
Highland Distl .... 365p (-12p)
Delphi .... 333p (-10p)
Rolfe & Nolan .... 282p (-8p)
Azlan .... 465p (-8p)
Flextech .... 470p (-8p)
Broken Hill .... 860p (-14p)
Frost Group .... 233p (-8p)
Body Shop .... 135p (-6p)
BICC .... 285p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 32

TEMPUS

More bodies, less shop

BODY SHOP needs to reinvent itself and it needs to be done quickly if the retailer is to *recover the sales momentum needed to sustain* its aggressive expansion. Body Shops are sprouting like weeds after rain in the United States, while sales in the existing stores slump. The company opened *27 stores in the first half* and plans 40 new units *in* the US by the year-end, but like-for-like sales were down 8 per cent.

Body Shop blames competition and the American *retailing environment*, where low entry costs allow rivals, such as Bath and Body Works, to snatch customers away with aggressive promotions. The company's re*sponse is more advertising and the closure of* a distribution centre to reduce costs.

The trouble is that while the US is Body Shop's biggest potential market with the largest *number of stores, it generated no profit in the* first half and, overall, costs are rising. As the company hires more *marketing* experts, sales *from existing stores* in the UK and continental Europe are static in real terms but declining in Australia. The only bright spot is Asia, where the Japanese obsession with brands *is allowing Body Shop to* achieve a 15 per cent surge in like-for-like sales.

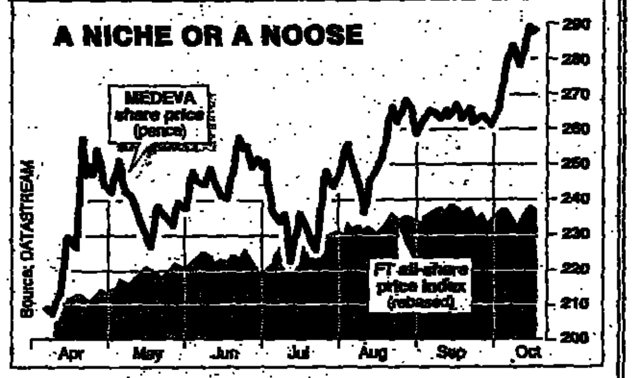
Born a concept retailer, Body Shop is finding the transition to high street fixture *difficult. The consumer is no* longer lured by the display of trendy slogans in its windows and the company has not been successful in differentiating its products from those of its *rivals. At the same time, its ability* to control stocks and eliminate slow-moving products has been weak. If Body Shop fails to reverse the sales trend in America, the increased *overheads* will *prove* a heavy burden.

Medeva

ANYONE who bought Medeva shares on the strength of *bid rumours in March will* have been rewarded handsomely. The abortive takeover by Fisons gave an initial *fillip to the price but, curiously*, the biggest outperformance in the shares has occurred since talks between *the two companies* broke down in July. Medeva is now rated at a 17 per cent premium to the market, substantially ahead of Glaxo *but* still trailing SmithKline Beecham and Zeneca.

Fisons *has* since been absorbed into Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, leaving Medeva as an odd fish in a shrinking pharmaceutical pond. For investors still betting on industry consolidation, that is good enough reason to buy. *Big funds, having cashed in* their Wellcome and Fisons chips, see Medeva as cheaper exposure to the sector than the highly rated Zeneca.

The harder question is whether future outperformance will come from the big-is-better strategy of a Glaxo — selling a panoply of *drugs to the vast* North American healthcare machine — or Medeva's exploitation of market niches. Medeva reckons *it can make* money developing drugs cast off by the majors at research stage. However, the *strategy could create a rod* for its back with the need to buy in more products to keep the earnings moving forward. *Medeva is not there* yet, but in the longer term a link-up with a biotech group *should* not be ruled out.



A NICHE OR A NOOSE

WH Smith

A BORED stock market chose to ignore the fundamentals yesterday and gave a boost to WH *Smith shares*, focusing on rumoured changes in the boardroom. Yesterday's annual meeting produced no new information, bar a slightly higher provision than analysts had built in to their forecasts. Furthermore, what was said did *nothing* to change the view that Smith remains in deep trouble.

*Smith operates out of high-*cost locations but sells low-margin goods, many of which are in markets vulnerable to *poaching by the supermarket* groups. The core retail chain does nothing that specialist operators such as Water*stones and WH Smith's own* Our Price do better.

The company hints of changes but there is scant *evidence of it. As* always, Christmas is crucial and without news on how Smiths fared during the period there is little to encourage an investor to buy the shares. Given the state of affairs, yesterday's share price rise was prompted by speculation over the hunt for a *new chief executive*. Talk focused on David Reid, finance director at Tesco. He would be a welcome *addition — although* Smith's problems are in merchandising rather than finance — but the shares look over-egged.

DFS Furniture

A *SLIGHT* dip in the price of DFS Furniture shares yesterday should not worry the company's fans. The clear *message was that the show*rooms were still humming with customers for three-piece suites. The main reason *for the slide was that the* shares went ex-dividend for the 10p special payout.

The chairman's planned *disposal of a third of his in*terest should not prove a problem. DFS shares have been a tight market and the stock ought to be placed at a *tight discount* — there are likely to be few institutional sellers — and will benefit from extra liquidity.

DFS *should continue its* rapid expansion. It has hardly tapped the potential in the South of England and while its long-term target of 100 stores may prove optimistic, the existing chain of 30 units with an 8 per cent market share leaves room for growth.

With operating cash flow of £110 million, the company *is able to generate sufficient* funds to pay for expansion and generate a surplus. The principal reason for its high *liquidity is the lack of stock* — DFS only manufactures to order — and the high sales densities that can be achieved under *such* a policy. After paying the special dividend, the company will still have £18 million in the bank, sug*gesting that investors can bet* on another generous payout within the next two years.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	905-903	Mar	1024-1022
Mar	935-934	May	1040-1035
May	953-952	Jul	unq
Jul	970-969	Sep	—
Sep	987-986		
Dec	1005-1003		Volume: 2988

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2380-2375	Jul	2200-2180
Jan	*2330-2328*	*Sep*	*2165-2150*
Mar	2281-2280	Nov	2140-2110
May	2230-2225		*Volume: 3362*

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	318.3-16.6
Spot: 389.0		Oct	287.5-86.5
Dec	347.5-46.7	Dec	285.5-84.0
Mar	325.5-24.2	Mar	283.9-82.0
May	321.3-20.0		Volume: 1148

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on October 17

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	96.52	101.79	126.40
(+/-)	-1.90	+1.50	+2.00
Eng/Wales:	96.55	101.74	125.09
(+/-)	-1.95	+0.86	+1.91
(%)	+2.0	+12.0	-6.0
Scotland:	96.20	102.09	131.03
(+/-)	-1.00	-4.52	+1.69
(%)	+80.0	-26.0	+7.0

ICIS-LOR (*London 6.00pm*)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	16.00	n/c
Brent 15 day (Dec)	16.10	+0.10
Brent 15 day (Jan)	16.00	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	17.35	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Jan)	17.20	n/c

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 171 (n/c)	O: 173 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	149 (n/c)	150 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Nov	149 (+1)	150 (+1)
Non EEC 1H Dec	149 (n/c)	150 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	86 (-1)	89 (n/c)
Naphtha	148 (n/c)	151 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Nov	*147.25-47.50*	*Feb*	*148.00-48.25*
Dec	147.25-47.50	Mar	148.00-48.25
Jan	*147.75-48.00*		*Vol: 11725*

BRENT (6.00pm)

Dec	16.08-16.09	Mar	15.78-15.83
Jan	*15.97-15.99*	*Apr*	*n/a*
Feb	15.87-15.90		Vol: 25357

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		**BARLEY** (close £/t)	
Nov	118.15	Nov	108.30
Jan	120.60	Jan	111.30
Mar	122.60	Mar	114.10
May	124.60	May	115.95
Jul	124.50	Sep	104.00
Volume: 713		Volume: 391	

POTATO (£/t)	Open	Close
Nov	unq	184.0
Apr	267.0	268.0
May	unq	312.5
		Volume: 51

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)
Nov 97.00-97.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Oct 95	*1645*	*1645*	*1640*
Nov 95	1600	1570	1582
Dec 95	*1590*	*1570*	*1577*
Jan 96	1590	1560	1585
Vol: 558 lots		*Open interest: 3745*	

Index 1695 -19

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)			Rudolf Wolff
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	Cash: 2720.0-2721.0	3mth: 2695.0-2696.0	Vol: 2286750
Lead ($/tonne)	*634.00-635.00*	*638.50-639.00*	*277775*
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	964.00-964.50	988.00-988.50	776875
Tin ($/tonne)	*6115.0-6125.0*	*6195.0-6200.0*	*26820*
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1629.0-1630.0	1666.0-1666.5	1812100
Nickel ($/tonne)	*7760.0-7770.0*	*7890.0-7895.0*	*74586*

LIFFE OPTIONS

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Alld Dom.	500	16½	26½	36½	0	14½	18½
(*516½)	550	0	6	15	33½	47	50
Argyll	330	1½	16½	25	0	14	18½
(*331½)	360	0	6½	12½	28½	34½	37
ASDA	100	1½	7	10	0	4½	6½
(*101½)	110	0	3	6	8½	10½	11½
Boots	550	6½	27½	38	0	16	20½
(*556½)	600	0	8	16	43½	50	49½
Br Airways	460	13	28	39½	0	12½	17½
(*473)	500	0	10	20½	27	35½	39½
BP	460	22½	31½	38½	0	6½	11½
(*482½)	500	0	10	18½	17½	26	31½
Br Steel	160	14½	17	20½	0	2½	5
(*174½)	180	0	5½	10	5½	11½	14½
C & W	420	4½	23½	37	0	15½	22½
(*424½)	460	0	9	19½	35½	43	46
CU	600	22	45	59½	0	13½	25½
(*622)	650	0	20½	29	28	38	52
ICI	800	5½	38	48½	0	20½	36
(*805½)	850	0	15½	25½	44½	49½	65½
Kingfishr	460	37	50	60½	0	6½	16½
(*497)	500	0	24½	35	3	21	33½
Land Sec	590	30	38½	49	0	6½	10½
(*580)	600	0	11	21	20	30	34
M & S	420	20½	29½	39½	0	7	10½
(*440½)	460	0	8½	18	19½	27½	30
Nat West	650	9	37	46½	0	19	34½
(*659)	700	0	14½	25	41	47½	64
Sainsbury	420	7	20½	29½	0	9½	13
(*427)	460	0	5	11½	33	36	37½
Shell	700	42	57½	68	0	3	10
(*742)	750	0	22½	33½	8	17½	31
Smkl Bch	600	45	58	69½	0	6½	12½
(*645)	650	0	25	39	5	23	31
Storehse	300	4	16	23	0	10½	13½
(*304)	330	0	5	10	26	29	31
Trafalgar	20	0½	3	4	0	4½	5½
(*20½)	25	0	3½	5	4½	6	9½
Unilever	1200	47½	69½	90½	0	11	24
(*1247½)	1250	0	35½	58½	2½	29	45
Zeneca	1150	42½	89	113½	0	29½	48
(*1192½)	1200	0	60½	85½	7½	50	70
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Grnd Met.	420	38	46½	52	2½	10	12½
(*454½)	460	11½	22½	29	18	28	30
Ladbroke	160	12½	18½	20½	1	4	6
(*171)	180	1½	7½	10½	10	12½	16
Utd Bisc	280	14½	24	29½	5	12	16
(*289½)	300	5	14½	20	17	22½	27

October 18, 1995 Tot: 56605 Calls: 31280 Puts: 25325 FT-SE Calls: 6020 Puts: 9124

*Underlying security price.

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
BAA	460	37	44	56½	0	5	7½
(*497)	500	0	18	31½	3	19	22½
Thames W	500	29½	42	53	0	10	14½
(*529½)	550	0	16½	28	20½	33½	39
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BAT Ind	500	51½	65½	71½	0½	7½	14
(*548)	550	14	34	40	13	24	34½
BTR	300	26	33½	37	0	3½	7
(*324½)	330	4	13	18	8½	14	20
Br Aero	700	48	74	83	5½	19½	28
(*738½)	750	17	45½	56½	24½	40	50
Br Telcm	390	10	18	23½	6	14	16½
(*392)	420	1½	6½	11½	28½	35½	36½
Cadbury	500	36½	52	58	5	14½	16½
(*529½)	550	10	25	29½	27	35	39½
Guinness	500	18½	35	40½	4½	13	20½
(*510)	550	1½	12½	17	40	42½	48½
GEC	330	9½	17½	24½	5	12½	14
(*332½)	360	1	6	11	27½	31	32½
Hanson	191	11	14½	—	1½	6	—
(*200½)	211	1	5½	—	11½	17½	—
LASMO	160	9	14½	17	2½	6	8
(*165)	180	1½	6	8	15½	17½	19
Lucas	180	19	25½	28½	0½	4	6
(*197½)	200	4½	13½	16½	6½	12	14
Pilkingtn	180	19½	24	29	0½	4	5
(*198)	200	5	12½	17	6	12	13
Prudential	360	40	49½	54	0½	5	10½
(*397½)	390	15	27½	34½	6	13½	22
Redland	360	18	31½	39	2½	9½	18
(*372½)	390	4	16	23½	18½	24½	33½
R-Royce	160	9	15½	18	2	5½	8½
(*166)	180	1	6½	9	14½	16½	19
Tesco	300	15	25½	30½	2½	7	12½
(*311)	330	3	10½	15	19½	23	28
Vodafone	260	10	20½	27½	5½	12½	16
(*263½)	280	2½	12	18½	18	24	27½
Williams	300	22½	27½	32	1	4½	9
(*317)	330	6½	11	14½	14½	18	23½

FT-SE INDEX (*3591½)

	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650	3700
Calls						
Oct	155	108	56½	17	2	1
Nov	179½	137½	98½	64½	37	19
Dec	204	165½	128	95½	69½	47½
Jan	—	189½	—	126½	—	78
Jun	—	254½	—	192½	—	141
Puts						
Oct	1	1	2	13½	58½	108½
Nov	12	19½	32½	49½	75½	111½
Dec	27½	40	53	72	97½	127
Jan	—	51½	—	89½	—	144
Jun	—	107	—	144	—	192½

		Calls			Puts		
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Abby Nat.	550	31½	45	48	12½	24½	30
(*565½)	600	9½	23½	24½	41	53	58
Amstrad	280	15½	25	32	10	16½	18½
(*283)	300	7	16	22½	21½	27	29
Barclays	750	40	58	67½	14½	31	38
(*767½)	800	15½	32½	43	41	57	64½
Blue Circ	280	25½	33½	36½	4	8½	14½
(*297½)	300	13	22	25½	11½	17	23½
Br Gas	240	23½	29	32½	1½	3	7
(*259½)	260	9½	16½	20	8	9½	15
Dixons	390	20	29½	39½	12	20	23½
(*394)	420	7½	16½	25½	30	37	40
Forte	240	19	26½	29½	2	5½	9
(*254½)	260	9½	14½	18	10	13½	18
Tarmac PLC	90	6	10	11½	5	7	9
(*90)	100	2	5½	7½	11½	13	15
Hillsdwn	160	12	16	17½	2½	5	9½
(*170)	180	2½	6½	8	13½	15	21½
Lonrho	160	8	11½	15	6½	10½	12
(*160)	180	2	4½	7½	20½	24	24½
Sears	100	10	12½	14	1½	2½	4
(*109)	110	4	6½	8½	5½	7	8½
Thrn EMI	1500	78½	115	149½	24½	39	47
(*1540)	1600	29½	67	97½	78	91½	96½
Tomkins	240	18½	23½	29	3½	8	10
(*252½)	260	7	13½	15½	12½	18	19½
TSB	360	18	23½	29	8	16	19½
(*371½)	390	5	8	12½	23½	34½	35
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Glaxo Well	750	46	66½	77½	0	10	19
(*796)	800	0	39½	47½	4	26	39
HSBC	950	8½	57½	79½	0	33	56
(*958½)	1000	0	34½	56	41½	60	84
Reuter	550	31½	50½	64½	0	10½	19
(*581½)	600	0	22	37	18½	37½	41
	Series	Oct	Jan	Apr	Oct	Jan	Apr
Royal Ins	360	46	56	63	0	4½	11
(*406)	390	16	34½	43	0	13	22½
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Fisons	260	3	7½	4½	0½	0½	2
(*262½)	280	0½	0½	0½	19	20	20½
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
Eastern Gp	950	26½	29½	28½	0½	0½	1
(*974)	1000	1	0½	0½	25	30½	31½
	Series	Dec	Mar	Jun	Dec	Mar	Jun
Natl Pwr	460	36	46	56	4½	9½	15½
(*490½)	500	12½	23½	33½	20½	25½	35½
Scot Pwr	360	21	26½	35	6½	13½	14½
(*370½)	390	7	12	20	21½	28	30

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 67524	Dec 95 Mar 96	3597.0 3650.0	3633.0 3650.0	3585.0 3650.0	3628.0 3656.5	16262 2
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3538	Dec 95 Mar 96				3966.0	0 0
Three Month Sterling *Previous open interest: 331988*	Dec 95 *Mar 96* Jun 96	93.25 *93.26* 93.19	93.30 *93.41* 93.34	93.24 *93.24* 93.15	93.30 *93.39* 93.33	16943 *35137* 20341
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 110	Dec 95 Mar 96				94.26 94.43	0 0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 772015	Dec 95 Mar 96	95.99 96.08	95.99 96.10	95.95 96.05	95.99 96.10	27365 26372
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 98645	*Dec 95* Mar 96	*105-07* 104-18	*105-23* 104-18	*105-01* 104-18	*105-19* 105-01	*74483* 18
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95 Mar 96	120.35 119.29	120.45 119.29	120.25 119.25	120.34 119.26	3369 119
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 190782	Dec 95 Mar 96	95.90 95.36	96.19 95.45	95.78 95.30	96.10 95.50	180855 249
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 19035	*Dec 95* Mar 96	*94.22* 94.41	*94.30* 94.48	*94.18* 94.40	*94.29* 94.47	*1485* 328
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 46513	Dec 95 Mar 96	*97.66* *97.75*	*97.69* *97.76*	*97.65* *97.71*	*97.67* *97.75*	3518 4212
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 46561	Dec 95 Mar 96	101.68 101.28	102.23 101.28	101.45 101.28	102.17 101.81	37876 50

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: [illegible] *Low* 5½ Week fixed: [illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open [illegible], *close* 5½.

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.78	n/a	5.84	5.78	5.72
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
French Franc:	7-6½	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $383.70-384.00 Close: $383.55-384.05 High: $383.55-384.05
Low: $383.10-383.60 AM: $383.75 PM: $383.65

Krugerrand: $384.00-386.00 (£244.50-246.50)

Platinum: $412.50 (£261.75) **Silver:** $5.36 (£3.415) **Palladium:** $137.25 (£87.10)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Oct 18	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4872-2.5020	2.4987-2.5020	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Brussels	45.70-45.99	45.88-45.99	*11-8pr*	*31-26pr*
Copenhagen	8.6220-8.6740	8.6520-8.6740	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9765-0.9798	0.9773-0.9798	11-7pr	25-21pr
Frankfurt	2.2207-2.2332	2.2301-2.2332	[illegible]ds	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	233.80-235.49	*234.86-235.49*	*32-59ds*	102-147ds
Madrid	192.37-193.12	192.83-193.12	41-51ds	130-148ds
Milan	2513.5-2520.7	2514.6-2518.7	7-9ds	23-26ds
Montreal	2.1001-2.1126	2.1001-2.1031	0.10-0.02pr	0.18-0.07pr
New York	1.5694-1.5764	1.5694-1.5704	0.12-0.10pr	0.36-0.33pr
Oslo	9.7880-9.8220	9.8070-9.8220	1½-1pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.8070-7.8330	7.8190-7.8330	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	10.738-10.851	10.738-10.761	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	157.12-158.08	157.81-158.08	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.622-15.712	15.686-15.712	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8014-1.8132	1.8104-1.8132	[illegible]pr	2½-2pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3245-1.3253
Austria	9.99-10.00
Belgium (Com)	*29.24-29.25*
Canada	1.3400-1.3405
Denmark	*5.5170-5.5220*
France	4.9840-4.9855
Germany	*1.4215-1.4218*
Hong Kong	7.7308-7.7318
Ireland	*1.6042-1.6062*
Italy	1602.20-1603.70
Japan	100.65-100.70
Malaysia	2.5250-2.5260
Netherlands	1.5918-1.5928
Norway	6.2560-6.2590
Portugal	149.71-149.81
Singapore	1.4245-1.4255
Spain	122.88-122.96
Sweden	6.8580-6.8680
Switzerland	1.1550-1.1560

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5685-1.5711
Australia dollar	2.0773-2.0800
Bahrain dinar	0.5875-0.5995
Brazil real*	1.5030-1.5072
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.7050-0.7150
Finland markka	6.6800-6.7960
Greece drachma	363.00-370.00
Hong Kong dollar	12.1180-12.1273
India rupee	54.31-55.27
Indonesia rupiah	3526.0-3594.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4670-0.4770
Malaysia ringgit	3.9600-3.9641
New Zealand dollar	2.3856-2.3897
Pakistan rupee	49.67 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.6675-5.7915
Singapore dollar	*2.2340-2.2370*
S Africa rand (com)	5.6950-5.7970
U A E dirham	*5.7175-5.8415*

Barclays Bank GTS • Lloyds Bank

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	298	Land Secs	1,100
ASDA Gp	9,400	Legal & Gn	2,200
Abbey Ntl	4,200	Lloyds Bk	7,000
Allied Dom	3,400	Marks Spr	2,300
Argyll Gp	2,700	Mid Elec	1,300
Arjo Wggns	1,400	NatWst Bk	4,300
AB Foods	111	Nat Power	2,700
BAA	1,400	NW Water	1,100
BAT Inds	7,100	P & O	5,500
BOC	552	Pearson	2,400
BP	10,000	PowerGen	2,000
BSkyB	3,400	Prudential	8,200
BTR	6,300	REXAM	1,000
BT	8,700	RMC	282
Bk of Scot	2,800	RTZ	823
Barclays	4,000	Rank Org	1,400
Bass	946	Reckitt Col	691
Blue Circle	3,800	Redland	2,000
Boots	5,200	Reed Intl	821
BAe	3,700	Rentokil	1,400
BA	3,700	Reuters	3,200
Brit Gas	15,000	Rolls Royce	6,500
Brit Steel	4,700	Royal Ins	8,400
Burmah Cstl	115	Ryl Bk Scot	9,900
Cable Wire	2,200	Sainsbury	2,800
Cadbury	5,100	Schroders	47
Carlton Cms	1,100	Scot & New	1,400
Cm Union	3,800	Scot Power	4,100
Cookson	863	Sears	5,600
Courtaulds	427	Svrn Trent	855
De La Rue	385	Shell Trans	9,000
Enterpr Oil	4,400	Siebe	695
Fisons	*183*	*SmKl Bch*	*5,900*
Forte	398	Smith Nph	5,900
GKN	477	Sthern Elec	408
GRE	7,600	Std Chartd	4,100
GUS	*2,200*	Sun Allnce	6,500
Gen Acc	1,600	Ti Gp	119
Gen Elec	10,000	TSB	7,700
Glaxo Well	4,000	Tate & Lyle	939
Granada	910	Tesco	3,800
Grand Met	5,500	Thames W	673
Guinness	6,100	Thrn EMI	509
HSBC	2,200	Tomkins	2,700
Hanson	8,900	Unilever	1,700
ICI	1,700	Vodafone	4,000
Inchcape	717	Whitbread	1,100
Kingfisher	2,400	Wllms Hld	3,300
LASMO	491	Wolseley	690
Ladbroke	6,300	Zeneca	1,300

	Oct 18 midday	Oct 17 close		Oct 18 midday	Oct 17 close		Oct 18 midday	Oct 17 close
AMP Inc	40¼	39¾	Engelhard Corp	25¼	25¾	Owens Corning	44	45¾
AMR Corp	68	68½	Enron Corp	35¼	34¾	PPG Industries	44¾	44¾
AT & T	63	63	Entergy	27¾	27¾	PNC Bank	29	28¾
Abbott Labs	39¾	39¾	Ethyl Corp	11	11	PP&L Res	23¾	23¾
Advanced Micro	27¼	27¼	Exxon	75	74¾	Paccar Inc	46	46¾
Aetna Life	72¾	72¾	FMC Corp	72¾	71¾	Pacificorp	19	19¾
Ahmanson (HF)	27¼	26¾	*FPL Group*	40¾	40¾	Pac Enterprises	25¾	25¾
Air Prod & Chem	53	52¾	Federal Express	81½	80¾	Pac Gas & Elect	29¾	29¾
Albertson's	33¾	34¼	*Fed Nat Mtge*	107¾	110	*Pac Telesis*	30¾	30¾
Alcan Aluminum	29¾	30¼	First Chicago	71¾	71¾	Pall Corp	24	24¾
Alco Standard	86¼	85¾	First Interstate	139¾	136	Panhandle East	27¾	27¾
Allied Signal	44¼	44¼	First Union Rlty	7¼	7¼	Peco Energy	28¾	28¾
Alum Co of Am	51½	51¾	Fleet Finl Grp	41¾	41½	Penney (JC)	46	46¾
Amax Gold Inc	6¼	5⅞	Fluor Corp	58¾	58¾	Pennzoil	43¾	42¾
Amerada Hess	45¾	45¾	Ford Motor	30¼	30¾	Pepsico	50¾	51¾
Amer Brands	42¼	42¼	GTE Corp	40¾	40¾	Pfizer	59¾	59¾
Amer El Power	37¾	37¾	Gannett	55¾	55¾	Phelps Dodge	61½	61¾
Amer Express	44¼	44¼	*Gap Inc Del*	37¾	37¾	Philip Morris	84¾	85¾
Amer Genl Corp	38¼	38¼	Gen Dynamics	54¾	54	Phillips Pet	31¾	31½
Amer Home Pr	87¼	88¼	Gen Electric	64	64	Pitney Bowes	43¾	43¾
Amer Intl	86¾	87¼	Gen Mills	56	56¾	Polaroid	40¾	40¾
Amer Stores	29	29	Gen Motors	46¾	46¾	PriceCostco	17¾	17¾
Ameritech	52	52	Gen Reinsurance	150¾	153¾	Procter & Gmbl	79¾	80
Amoco	64	64	Gen Signal	29¾	29¾	Providian	40¾	41½
Anheuser-Busch	63¾	64	Genuine Parts	39¾	40	Pub Serv E & G	28¾	29
Apple Computer	36¾	36¾	Georgia Pac	85¾	85	Quaker Oats	33	33¾
Archer Daniels	16¼	15¾	Gillette	48¾	48¾	Ralston Purina	58¾	58
Armco	6¼	6¼	Glaxo Wellc ADR	24¾	24¾	Raychem Corp	43¾	43¾
Armstrong Wrld	56¼	56¼	Goodrich (BF)	65¾	65¾	Raytheon	85¾	87¾
Asarco	30¼	30¾	Goodyear Tire	39¾	39¾	Reebok Intl	34¾	32¾
Ashland Oil	33¾	33¾	Grace (WR)	65¾	65¾	Reynolds Metals	50¾	50¾
Atl Richfield	105¾	106	Gt Atl Pac Tea	21	21¾	Roadway Srvcs	43¾	47¾
Auto Data Pro	72¾	71	Great West Fin	25¾	24¾	Rockwell Intl	46¾	46¾
Avery Dennison	43¾	43¾	Halliburton	44	45¾	Rohm & Haas	56¾	57¾
Avon Products	71¼	71½	Harcourt General	42¾	42¾	Royal Dutch	122¾	123¾
Baker Hughes	21¾	21½	Heinz (HJ)	46¾	46¾	Rubbermaid	26	26¾
Baltim Gas & El	26¾	26¾	Hercules	54¾	54¾	SBC Comms	54¾	54¾
Banc One	36¾	36	Hershey Foods	64¾	65	Safeco Corp	65¾	65¾
BankAmerica	64¼	63¾	Hewlett Packard	92¾	90¾	St Paul's Cos	57¾	58
Bank of NY	47	47¼	Hilton Hotels	66¾	66¾	Salomon Inc	39¾	40¾
Bankers Tr NY	69	68¾	Home Depot	38¾	38¾	Sara Lee Corp	28¾	29
Barnett Banks	59¾	59¾	Homestake Mng	16¾	16¾	Scecorp	17¾	17¾
Bausch & Lomb	38¼	39¾	Honeywell	42¾	42¾	Schering Plough	52¾	52¾
Baxter Intl	40	40¼	Household Intl	65¾	65¾	Schlumberger	67¾	66¾
Bectn Dickinsn	65	64¾	Houston Inds	45¾	45¾	Scott Paper	50¾	49¾
Bell Atlantic	61½	62¾	Humana	20¾	20¾	Seagram	35¾	35¾
Bell Industries	22¾	22¼	ITT Corp	122¾	123	Sears Roebuck	35¾	35¾
BellSouth	74	74¼	Illinois Tool	58¾	58¾	Shell Trans	70¾	71
Black & Decker	35¼	35¾	Illinova	27¾	27¾	Sherwin Wllms	36¾	36¾
Block (H&R)	40¼	39¾	INCO	32¾	33¾	Skyline Corp	17¾	17¾
Boeing	66¼	66¾	Ingersoll Rand	37	37¾	Snap-On-Tools	41½	40¾
Boise Cascade	38¼	38¼	Inland Steel	23¾	23¾	Southern Co	23¾	23¾
Bristol Myrs Sq	74¾	75	Intel Corp	67¾	65¾	Sprint Corp	36	36
Browning Ferris	31½	31½	IBM	95¾	96¾	Stanley Works	48¾	47¾
Brunswick	20	20¼	Intl Flav & Fr	47¾	47¾	Sun Company	25¾	25¾
Burlington Nthn	75¼	75¾	Intl Paper	37¾	39¾	Sun Microsys	72	67¾
CBS	80¼	80¼	James River Va	32¾	32¾	Suntrust	68¾	66¾
CNA Financial	116¾	118¾	Johnson & Johnsn	77¾	77¾	Supervalu	30¾	30¾
CPC Intl	66¾	65¾	Kellogg	73¾	73¾	*Sysco Corp*	28¾	27¾
CSX	82¾	82¼	Kerr-McGee	55¾	55¾	TRW Inc	67¾	68¾
Campbell Soup	51¾	51¾	Kimberly-Clark	69¾	67¾	TCC Inds	2¾	2¾
Can Pacific	16¼	16¾	Kmart	10¾	10¾	Tandem Comp	11¾	11¾
Cptl Cities ABC	118¾	116¾	Knight-Ridder	57¾	57¾	Tandy Corp	60¾	60¾
Carolina Pwr	32¾	32¾	*Lilly (Eli)*	96¾	97¾	Teledyne	25¾	25¾
Caterpillar	52¾	54¾	Limited Inc	20	20¾	Temple Inland	48¾	48¾
Central & SW	25¾	25¾	*Lincoln Nat*	46¾	46¾	Tenneco	44¾	44¾
Champion Intl	54¾	54¾	Litton	41½	41½	Texaco	64¾	66¾
Chase Manhat	63¾	63¾	Liz Claiborne	24¾	25	Texas Inst	74¾	73¾
Chemical Bk	62¾	62¾	Lockheed Martin	69	69¾	Texas Utilities	36¾	36
Chevron Corp	47¾	47¾	Louisiana Pac	25	24¾	Textron	68¾	68¾
Chrysler	54¾	54¾	MCI Comm	24¾	25¾	Time Warner	37¾	38
Chubb Corp	94¾	96	Marriott Int	38¾	37¾	Times Mirror A	29	29¾
Cigna Corp	101¾	101¾	Marsh & McLen	85¾	85¾	Timken	41½	41¾
Citicorp	69¾	72¾	Masco Corp	28¾	28¾	Torchmark	44	44¾
Clorox	67¾	66¾	May Dept St	40¾	41¼	Toys R Us	26¾	26¾
Coastal Corp	32¾	33¾	Maytag Corp	17¾	17¾	Transamerica	69¾	69¾
Coca Cola	70¾	70¾	McDonalds	39¾	39¾	Travelers	53¾	53¾
Colgate-Palmolive	67¾	66¾	McDonnell D	79	80	Tribune	64¾	64
Columbia Gas	38¾	37¾	McGraw Hill	82¾	82	Tyco Labs	63¾	62¾
Compaq Comp	53¾	51½	Mead Corp	55¾	55¾	UST Inc	29¾	29¾
Comp Ass Intl	43¾	42¾	Medtronic	58¾	58¾	UAL	178	176¾
Conagra	39¾	39¾	Mellon Bk	55¾	52	US Inds	15¾	15¾
Conrail	69¾	70¾	Melville Corp	35¾	35	USX Marathon	19	19¾
Cons Edison	30¾	30¾	Merck Inc	59¾	59¾	Unicom	32¾	32¾
Cons Nat Gas	39¾	39¾	Merrill Lynch	61½	62¾	Unilever NV	129¾	128¾
Cooper Inds	34¾	34¾	Microsoft	96¾	91¾	Union Camp	53	53¾
Corestates	39¾	39	Minnesota Mine	58¾	58¾	Union Carbide	39¾	39
Corning Inc	28¾	28¾	Mobil Corp	99¾	98¾	Union Pacific	65¾	66¾
Crown Cork	35¾	35¾	Monsanto	109¾	108	Unisys Corp	7¾	7¾
Dana Corp	26¾	26¾	Morgan (JP)	81½	81½	USAIR Group	13¾	13¾
Dayton Hudson	73	74¾	Motorola Inc	68¾	67¾	USF&G Corp	18¾	18¾
Deere	86¾	86¾	Natl Semi	28¾	27¾	US Life	29¾	30¾
Delta Air Lines	67¾	66¾	Natl Service Ind	30	30¾	US West	46¾	47¾
Deluxe Corp	32¾	32¾	Navistar Int	10¾	10¾	United Tech	88¾	86¾
Detroit Edison	33¾	32¾	NBD Bancorp	40	40	Unocal Corp	27¾	28
Digital Equip	51½	49¾	NY Times A	30	30	Upjohn	46¾	46¾
Dillard Dept St	30¾	30¾	Newmont Mng	38¾	38	VF Corp	48¾	48¾
Disney (Walt)	58¾	58¾	Niag Mohawk	10¾	10¾	WMX Tech	27¾	27¾
Dominion Res	39¾	39¾	Nike B	111	109¾	Wal-Mart Stores	22¾	22¾
Donnelley (RR)	38¾	38¾	NL Industries	15¾	16¾	Warner-Lambert	87¾	87¾
Dover Corp	40¾	40¼	Noram Energy	7¾	7¾	Wells Fargo	220¾	217¾
Dow Chemical	72¾	72¾	Nordstrom	38¾	38¾	Westinghouse El	14¾	14¾
Dow Jones	35¾	35¾	Norfolk Sthrn	75¾	75¾	Weyerhaeuser	43¾	43
Dresser	23¾	23¾	Nthn State Pwr	46¾	46¾	Whirlpool	52¾	53¾
Duke Power	43¾	43¾	Norwest Corp	30¾	30¾	Whitman	21¾	21
Dun & Bradstreet	57¾	58	Nynex Corp	47¾	47¾	Winn Dixie	61½	64¾
Du Pont	68¾	68¾	Occidental Pet	21	21¾	Woolworth	16¾	16¾
Eastman Kodak	60	59¾	Ohio Edison	22¾	22¾	Wrigley (Wm) Jr	48¾	50¾
Eaton Corp	50¾	51¾	Oracle	43¾	40¾	Xerox	137¾	135¾
Emerson Elec	71¾	71¾	Oryx Energy Co	12¾	12¾	Yellow Corp	12¾	12¾

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Furniture in the frame

GRAHAM KIRKHAM, the Doncaster businessman, is not the sort of entrepreneur the City woos. The bluff Yorkshireman has built his DFS furniture empire without any unnecessary or costly bank borrowing. When it floated in 1993 he did not offload all the shares into the market. They have risen, but finally the market has prevailed and persuaded him to sell a third of his stake for about £60 million.

He will spend the money to improve his art collection. His best known painting to date is a Gainsborough entitled *Peasants Going to Market*.

Taking stick

SIR Richard Greenbury sets great store by discipline throughout Marks & Spencer and one can see why. He was, he now admits, the most caned boy in his school (Ealing County Grammar) and was suspended three times. His mother was told by the head that he never did any work. He left with six O-levels and packed parcels in Lillywhites. From there, he got into M&S and his rise is well known, but his interview in *Capability* magazine raises the question whether M&S would recruit a young Greenbury today. He berates the typical recruitment criteria. "With my caning record, I was never going to make a prefect. I was not a team captain, and although a very good footballer . . . I was a forward and defenders are usually captains. This doesn't mean I have no leadership qualities and presumably I've proved that I have."

DFS FURNITURE FAMILY CASH IN

Essex thirst

THERE are economic indicators and economic indicators. Now Kenneth Clarke and his wise men have a new survey on which to base their forecasts. Scottish & Newcastle Retail, the pubs company, claims to be ahead of the game in discovering a resurgence in consumer spending in the South East. The evidence? An upturn in sales at pubs in Essex. At the Coopers Arms in Romford, near the Ford works at Dagenham, business is up 42 per cent year-on-year, the company reports. At the Hoy and Helmet in Benfleet the increase is 56 per cent and the Red Lion at Witham is up 44 per cent. "Essex has always been a barometer for our business," enthuses David Grace, managing director of S&N's southern inns division.

Golfing rabbit

AMONG the 68 players attending Nomura International's charity golf day at Wentworth, that raised over £9,000 for the Children in Cities Appeal, was Glen Dobinson, a Lloyd's underwriter, who did so badly last year that he won a tin of biscuits. This year he again collected the booby prize — a lesson at the Royal Berkshire Shooting School. Could this be a hint?

RARELY is St Luke's Day observed. But yesterday the day of the patron saint of physicians was marked by one of the biggest mergers in the pharmaceuticals field — between Ivax of the US and Norway's Hafslund Nycomed.

ANATOLE KALETSKY

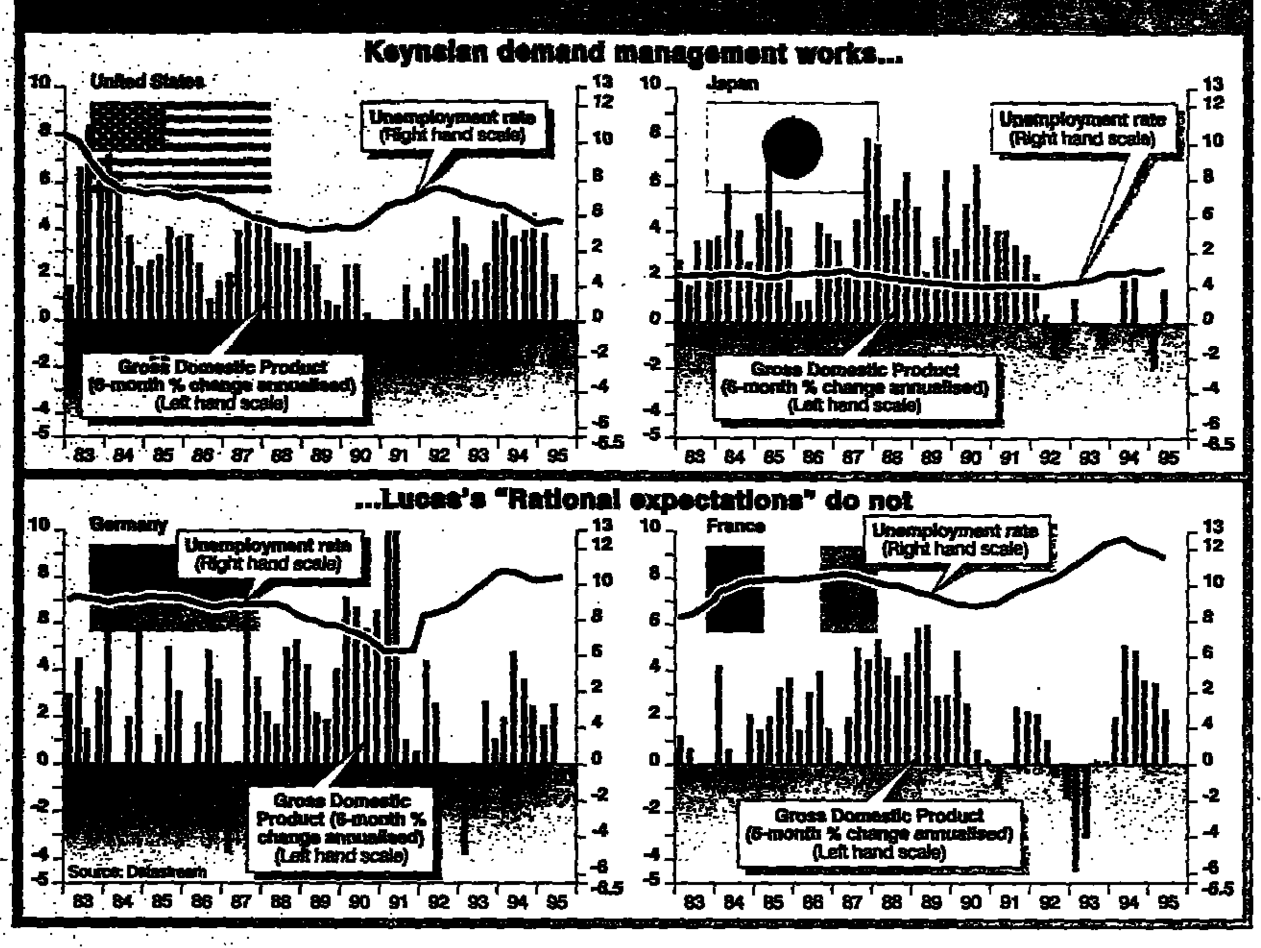
Bunkum of rational expectations

The damage done by one Nobel prizewinner's theory is probably comparable to that of a major war

Last week, the Nobel Prize for economics was awarded to Professor Robert Lucas of the University of Chicago. His prize-winning theory of "rational expectations" is a farrago of unsubstantiated conjectures and manifest nonsense. It claims to prove that every government action designed to stabilise an economy will achieve the opposite result. The economic damage done around the world by this one abstruse theory — which lies at the heart of the monetarist attack on all macroeconomic policies to mitigate recessions or limit unemployment — is probably comparable to the destruction wrought by a major war.

The core of the Lucas theory is that rational people are too clever to be outwitted by central bankers and governments. They learn from experience that any increase in the money supply or expansion in government deficits simply produces inflation. This is the "rational expectation" that gives the theory its name.

From this conjecture it follows, via a few lines of mathematics, that demand management can never work. If Keynesian fine-tuners keep trying to stabilise the economy, rational businessmen will automatically offset their actions. Whenever interest rates are cut or fiscal policy is loosened, businesses simply raise their prices instead of increasing output and offering more jobs. But if every effort at demand management is bound to prove futile or counterproductive, it follows that the consequences of announcing a rigid monetary targeting must always be benign. The only proviso is that governments and central banks must adhere to whatever targets they choose with such rigidity that their absolute commitment is generally believed.



To see what all this means, readers in Britain need only think back to the ERM period or the heyday of M3 targeting in the early 1980s. Those on the Continent may prefer to reflect on the *franc fort*.

Remember the Government's self-justifying rhetoric during the ERM period (echoed exactly by France today): it did not matter whether the Government had chosen a sensible exchange rate or the right monetary target. All that mattered was the Government's unwavering commitment to achieve its announced objective, come hell or high water. Once businessmen and workers realised that there was no escaping the pre-announced objectives, they would adjust their behaviour to fit in with the Government's targets. If the economic model did not match the real world, the world could always adjust.

And woe betide the "siren voices" who ever dared to call for policy change. The slightest wavering in the monetary targets and a deluge of inflationary retribution would follow as night follows day.

Professor Lucas was once asked what he would do if he were appointed chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. Reportedly, he said: "I would set a monetary target and then resign." This story may be apocryphal, but it captures the essence of his big idea.

Few politicians or businessmen may ever have heard of rational expectations and Professor Lucas, but as Keynes said: "Practical men, who believe themselves to be quite exempt from any intellectual influences, are usually the slaves of some defunct economist. Madmen in authority, who hear voices in the air, are distilling their frenzy from some academic scribbler a few years back."

That reference to "madmen in authority" might have been specially written for the unconscious apostles of rational expectations. I realised this in the early 1980s, during a conversation with an intimate of Margaret Thatcher and Nigel Lawson. It was one of those regular moments of crisis when everyone was accusing Mrs Thatcher of having "finally gone mad". The Prime Minister's friend, however, was not dismayed at all. Instead he remarked with relish: "I hope people believe this time that she really is mad. Then they will realise that the Government will stop at nothing to hit the money supply targets. Once people believe that, our economic problems will be over."

This comment emphasises the contradiction at the heart of the theory of rational expectations. The theory says that rational people will believe in a government's determination to pursue a policy which is clearly irrational from a political, industrial and economic point of view. It asserts that rational people will believe in a predictable link between some measure of the money supply and inflation, when the empirical evidence shows that no such stable link exists. Finally, it says people will believe that demand management never works, when experience shows clearly that it usually does.

This last objection is by far the most important. It does not rest on abstruse mathematics or psychological speculation, but on empirical observation of the real world.

Governments and central banks can be broadly divided into two. The first group, led by the Federal Reserve Board, consciously practise demand management. They believe it is possible simultaneously to control inflation and to stabilise the rate of unemployment, industrial capacity use or GDP growth at around what they view as their "natural" or "trend" rates. They set interest rates with a view to allowing the maximum growth consistent with steady inflation. Since September 1982, when Paul Volcker, the then Fed chairman, formally abandoned monetary targeting, this group of active demand managers has been led by the US. While Fed officials still occasionally pay lip-service to the monetarist orthodoxy that a central bank's sole job is to control inflation, nobody believes them — and their actions make it quite clear that they do not believe in nonsense themselves.

The group of macroeconomic activists led by the US also includes post-ERM Britain and Italy. Japan was a prominent member until 1990, when control of the central bank was captured by Yasushi Mieno, a monetarist hard-liner, with disastrous consequences that are now well-known. Since the economic measures announced this summer, Japan can probably be welcomed back into the demand management camp — and the forecasts for its economic performance are accordingly being upgraded by economists and investors around the world.

The second group, led by the Bank of France and the European Commission, seems genuinely to believe in the Lucas theory. They think that nothing can be achieved by active demand management. Maintaining a steady exchange rate or monetary target is in their view the very *definition* of economic success. Ideologically, the Bundesbank also belongs to this group. Its directors often boast that "the Bundesbank is not an anti-cyclical institution". However, the Bundesbank's actions speak louder than its words. The Bundesbank frequently overrides or misses its monetary targets. The many market analysts and investors who make a living by trying to analyse and predict the Bundesbank's decisions would not dream of ignoring the performance of German industry or the fluctuations in unemployment, as Professor Lucas's theories would suggest.

On balance, the Bundesbank is less of a fine-tuner than the Fed or the Japanese Government. Judged by actions, rather than rhetoric, it lies midway between the activist neo-Keynesian paradigm of the Fed and the self-denying ordinances of Professor Lucas as practised by the Bank of France.

To judge the value of Professor Lucas's contribution to economics, therefore, all we have to do is compare the economic performances of the main industrial countries in the 13 years since the Fed abandoned monetarism. Those who managed demand and ignored Professor Lucas have, on the whole, achieved economic stability and generally prospered: those who took his theory to heart have suffered economic disaster.

The conclusion is clear. The theory of rational expectations is bunkum. Professor Lucas is today $1 million richer because the Nobel committee has proved to be far more gullible than the "rational economic agents" his theory claimed to describe.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Who cares about bank customers?

From P. D. J. Wood

Sir, Over 50 years ago I opened a modest bank account with Glyn Mills — a delightfully efficent and helpful company where the customer seemed to matter.

Happily these virtues were retained when it merged with Williams Deacon to become Williams and Glyn's bank. However trouble soon appeared — it was taken over by the Royal Bank of Scotland — the Williams and Glyn's name was dropped along with its many virtues and in came all the expensive, impersonal and money-grabbing vices of a financial monolith.

It seemed distinguishable from common sense to pay more for an inferior service, so I left in disgust and, believing firmly in "small is beautiful", sought shelter with TSB. I am happy to say I have been looked after with courteous efficiency and was pleased to become a shareholder.

Now along comes this dreadful Lloyds Bank merger. I am at a loss to see how we customers will benefit — as a shareholder my views were never sought and I am not in the least interested in the extra dividends which are likely to come my way. It seems that some members of the boards are on to "nice little earners" of over £1 million each, while those who gave "technical advice" on how to perpetrate this undesirable cannabalism are likely to pocket £30 million.

If this isn't the "unacceptable face of capitalism" I don't know what is. But more to the point — where do I go now?

I am, Sir, a seemingly unimportant bank customer.

PETER D. J. WOOD,
2 St. John's Road,
Sevenoaks,
Kent.

Support the case for Terminal 5

From the Chief Executive, Guild of Business Travel Agents

Sir, London is judged by 500 European companies as the top for business (October 11) and is the strongest city on communications.

This is primarily due to Heathrow being the world's largest international aviation hub. UK business benefits from this. If we are to remain number one, UK and particularly London businessmen, must make their voice heard in support of Terminal 5. This is no time to be a silent majority. A letter to the Terminal 5 inquiry inspector is all that is needed!

Yours faithfully,
D. I. REYNOLDS
Chief Executive,
Guild of Business Travel Agents,
Artillery House,
Artillery Row,
London, SW1.

Christine Buckley looks at a trading revolution

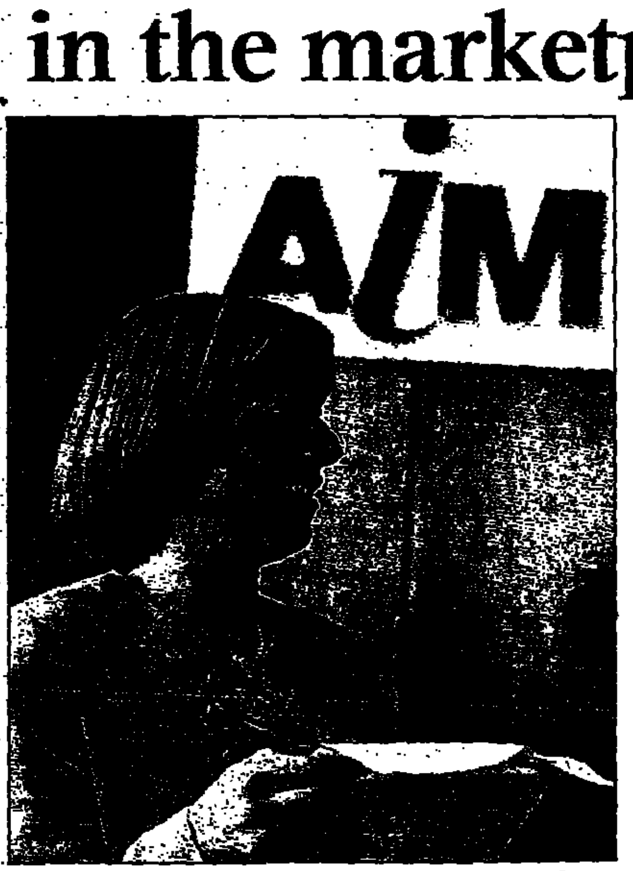
Small companies set out more stalls in the marketplace

Today more than 40 smaller companies will set out their stalls for some 500 fund managers who have been invited to the Company Investor Show.

It is a further forum for smaller companies to attract investors amid the growing number of exchanges springing up to specialise in the shares of smaller-sized and growth companies. The much vaunted demise of the rule 4.2 trading facility on the Stock Exchange for smaller companies, which occurred this month, and next year's end of the Unlisted Securities Market have done much to focus the minds of would-be trading agencies. Leaps in technology and the proliferation of PCs have made ways much easier to set up trading operations.

The Stock Exchange's replacement for the USM began in June. Since 1990 the USM had become increasingly indistinct from the main list after the implementation of European directives and the erosion of price differentials in joining fees between the two markets. The Alternative Investment Market (AIM) was launched with the intention of providing a ground for younger companies. AIM, the first new equity market created by the Stock Exchange for 15 years, has grown in popularity and influence since it began with just 10 companies. It now has 100 and is starting to attract the interest of institutions as well as private clients who have been firm backers of the growth companies.

These smaller, younger businesses, which are often venture-capital backed, offer greater scope for investment growth than do the larger stocks in the FT-SE 100 or Mid 250 traded through the Stock Exchange. Therefore smaller companies can usually go for a listing on AIM, which because of its links with the Stock Exchange is regulated, with some confidence that it will prove a fertile environment for fund-raising. However, not all companies want the full market exposure and regulation that AIM requires, and not all want the expense that it entails. The demand that companies have to nominate advisers means a cost of at least £25,000.



Theresa Wallis, chief operating officer, at the launch of the Alternative Investment Market last June

To suit their needs and to catch hold of the growing interest in smaller stocks, a variety of operations has emerged. As their number and influence grows, they are poised to present more of an alternative shares transaction movement than the Stock Exchange has hitherto seen. This may go some way to explain its tetchy response to the establishment by ShareLink, the stockbroking enterprise, of dealing on the Internet.

A recent newcomer is Tradepoint, a neutral order-driven marketplace that was launched in September and charges companies £1,000 a year to trade. It allows for instant publication of trading prices and volumes and enables participants to enter on an anonymous basis orders to buy or sell so it is not clear if there is one large seller of stock or several small ones.

Tradepoint, which is recognised by the Securities and Investment Board, was founded in 1992 by three former employees of the Stock Exchange. Its breakeven target is a 2 per cent market share within 18 months. Its broker, Williams de Broë, believes Tradepoint could have a 10 per cent stake within five years.

To coincide with the abolition of rule 4.2 at the start of this month, Ofex was launched. It was founded by JP Jenkins, the broker that has had a particular interest in rule 4.2 companies having made markets in them since 1991 and having started Newstrack, an information service on them, two years ago. Ofex, which enables member firms to trade "off market", now has 59 companies including one or two larger names such as Weetabix and, although not regulated, was started with the approval of the Stock Exchange. Ofex, which sees itself as a starter exchange according to Barry Hocken, its marketing director, whereby young companies launch themselves and then graduate to AIM or the full list, costs an initial £2,250. The application fee is £250 while companies have to subscribe to Newstrack at £2,000 per year.

Meanwhile ShareLink continues to expand its facilities. It launched Snips this month, a new issue placing service that ShareLink declared a revolutionary operation. It will enable private investors to take up stakes in new issues via a placing, a method of sale hitherto reserved for institutional investors.

Next year will see the advent of Easdaq, the European answer to Nasdaq. The European Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation system will arrive in the second half of 1996, coming from the European association of securities dealers with substantial resources, and backing from merchant banks.

Ronald Cohen, of Apax, the venture capital group, is one of the prime movers of Easdaq having served on the Stock Exchange's working party to look at the successor to the USM. Easdaq will target young international companies, which it hopes will remain with it rather than moving up to the Stock Exchange. With its European bias and aspirations towards bigger fund-raising, Easdaq could prove the biggest drain from the Stock Exchange of all the new markets.

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Tietmeyer warning on single currency

By Graham Searjeant
Financial Editor

JOINING a common European currency would strip individual member nations of their sovereignty over financial and wage policies as well as in monetary affairs, the president of the Bundesbank warned increasingly sceptical Germans yesterday.

Hans Tietmeyer said that for the currency to work, there would have to be sanctions against any government that breached the economic convergence tests after joining. "It is an illusion to think that states can hold on to their autonomy over taxation policy," he said in an interview with *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, the German daily newspaper.

The European currency would inevitably imply a further step towards political union under which "member states are ready to enact a common fiscal policy". Otherwise, conflicts would emerge that would be hard to resolve.

Sanctions could be triggered automatically if, for example, a nation's budget deficit exceeded 3 per cent of gross domestic product. Exceptions could be decided by a majority in the council of ministers, Herr Tietmeyer suggested, and the European central bank should also have a vote. Most EU countries, including Britain and France, would at present fail this test, a condition enshrined in the Maastricht treaty.

Echoing the ever harder line taken by German leaders in recent weeks, Herr Tietmeyer suggested that sanctions might include freezing access to EU funds. While pledging their commitment to a European currency, Herr Tietmeyer, Helmut Kohl, Germany's Chancellor, and Theo Waigel, its Finance Minister, have increasingly insisted that the terms for economic and monetary union assuage German doubts over losing the mark, even at the expense of some delay beyond the 1999 deadline.

Pennington, page 27

Profits are up at Havelock Europa, said Hew Balfour, chief executive, pictured in the refurbished Army and Navy store in Victoria Street, London

Birmingham Midshires buys mortgage business

By Anne Ashworth

BIRMINGHAM Midshires Building Society is now the tenth largest in the league, after the acquisition of HYPO-MSL (Mortgage Services), a centralised lender with a £1.8 billion mortgage book.

The deal, the seventeenth in five years, swells the society's assets to £7 billion. It also ousts the Yorkshire Building Society from the number ten slot.

The Birmingham Midshires move rekindled speculation yesterday that the society, in spite of its stated commitment to mutuality, would make a suitable buy for a bank interested in developing a specialist mortgage arm.

Lloyds Bank has already set the example with its takeover earlier this year of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society.

MSL is being sold for "strategic reasons" by its German owner, Bayerische Hypotheken-und-Wechsel Bank, of Munich. Neither side would disclose the purchase price, but mortgage books currently attract a margin of 3 to 4 per cent above the value of the loans, which would suggest a £75 million premium for the HYPO-MSL mortgage business alone.

In total, the Birmingham Midshires has spent more than £3 billion on mortgage books during its five-year spending spree. Earlier purchases included the £550 million Crédit Agricole book and the £380 million Western Trust book. With control of the book comes the right to earn interest on the loans.

Commenting on the HYPO-MSL purchase, Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS, the securities house, said: "It makes good sense, given the current static state of the mortgage market. It's easier to go out to buy a book than to try to get new business."

For the HYPO-MSL's 30,000 borrowers, the arrival on the scene of the Birmingham Midshires could be good news, as, at present, they are paying a higher than average variable rate of 8.49 per cent.

This is 0.50 per cent above the Birmingham Midshires rate of 7.99 per cent, the industry norm.

The society said that it would be looking to reduce the HYPO-MSL rate, but there was no guarantee that it would be cut to the level of that of Birmingham Midshires.

For the time being, HYPO-MSL will continue to get loans from independent financial advisers. According to the Birmingham Midshires, about 6,000 new customers have been joining every year in spite of the disadvantageous rates.

HYPO-MSL employs 295 people in its offices in Bracknell, Berkshire.

Savers put £25bn into Tessas

MORE than £4 billion was invested in tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) in the year March 31, with almost 250,000 new accounts opened, according to the Inland Revenue. More than four million people have invested a total of £25 billion since Tessas were launched in 1991 (Marianne Curphey writes).

Launched by John Major, during his spell as Chancellor in 1990, the first Tessas started on January 1, 1991. They are special bank and building society accounts that allow savers to receive tax-free interest on £9,000 invested over a five-year period.

Existing Tessas will begin to mature in January, and investors will then be able to put the matured Tessa, excluding interest earned, straight into a follow-up Tessa.

A Revenue spokeswoman said that the scheme had been successful because it was low-risk and appealed to people with small amounts to invest. "Tessas are becoming more and more popular as those who invested in the early years are telling others of the advantages," she said.

Havelock helped by bank move

By Philip Pangalos

A MOVE to expand from the traditional non-food retail market to banks helped Havelock Europa, the shopfitting company, to a 31.7 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £2.05 million in the half-year to June 30.

Turnover, boosted by business from banks, expanded by 44.9 per cent to £22.8 million (£15.7 million). The Bank of Scotland, with the refurbishment of 16 branches in the first half and a further 43 to follow in the second half, is likely to be the group's largest customer this year. Banking work was also carried out for Co-operative Bank and the TSB.

The group is confident on prospects, with orders up by 36 per cent in the nine months to September 30. In addition, Marks & Spencer, one of Havelock's largest customers, along with Boots The Chemists, has placed the first orders for its continental European stores. Other customers include House of Fraser, Dixons and Tesco.

The dividend is raised to 1.2p (1p) and is payable on December 21, from earnings ahead to 5.3p (4p) a share. Havelock shares firmed 5½p to 263p.

USAir remains in profit for a second quarter

From Richard Thomson in New York

USAIR, the struggling carrier in which British Airways has a 24 per cent stake has managed to make a profit in the third quarter for the first time in seven years, confirming its growing financial stability after its second-quarter profit.

The net profit of $43.1 million, compared with a $180.1 million loss in the same quarter last year, will strengthen the company's hand in its takeover negotiations with United Airlines and American Airlines. Two weeks ago, USAir revealed that it was in talks with both carriers that could lead to it being bought by one of them.

The return to profit will be music to the ears of Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman of British Airways. Since making its investment two years ago, British Airways has seen its value shrink dramatically and was forced to write it down by 50 per cent in May. Warren Buffet, the US investor, also had to write down the value of his shareholding.

The sale of the airline is likely to boost the value of BA's investment and could give the British airline greater access to US markets. USAir refused to comment on the progress of the takeover talks.

Seth Schofield, the chairman and chief executive, said: "There can be no doubt that the company is now experiencing a dramatic upturn in its financial performance."

He pointed out that it was the first time in six years that the company had managed a profit in two consecutive quarters. During the past five years, USAir has lost about $3 billion.

Mr Schofield put the profit improvement down to better operating conditions and cost reductions. He said: "These results confirm the profit potential of the USAir franchise. Many of the pieces now are falling into place that will allow us to begin realising our potential."

However, USAir still faces substantial labour relations problems with its highly unionised workforce which could jeopardise a deal with UAL or American.

Mr Schofield abruptly resigned from the company a few weeks ago partly because of the problems of dealing with the workforce but is now staying on until USAir is sold.

Drugs tie creates $6.5bn company

By Christine Buckley

THE pace of consolidation in the pharmaceuticals industry quickened yesterday as Ivax, of the US, and Hafslund Nycomed, of Norway, merged their healthcare businesses to form the world's largest generic drugs company.

The merger creates a company worth $6.5 billion employing more than 13,000.

The new company, Ivax Nycomed, which joins the drugs interests of Ivax and Hafslund Nycomed's speciality of X-ray and diagnostic imaging, is expected to generate revenue of more than $2.5 billion. Physically, it will be split three ways with a main office in Oslo, US headquarters in Miami and a co-ordinating centre in London.

The two companies, forging their alliance on the basis of Ivax shareholders holding 54 per cent, estimate that cost savings will yield $100 million a year after three years.

Phillip Frost, Ivax's chairman and chief executive, said Ivax Nycomed will have "the financial strength, product base, global reach, and the scientific and technical expertise necessary to excel in the rapidly changing health care industry".

Svein Aaser, Hafslund Nycomed's president, said: "The merger presents tremendous opportunities to enhance revenues through the registration and sale of Ivax's generic drugs in markets where Hafslund Nycomed is strong, particularly in the Nordic countries."

ACCOUNTANCY

Levelling the playing field

Emile Woolf and **Clive Boxer** call for directors and auditors to hold equal amounts of liability cover

JOHN BOTTEN

Emile Woolf says non-executives should carry extra insurance

The auditing profession is undergoing fundamental changes, mainly related to liability containment. Among these is the transition by big firms from partnership to incorporated status to protect partners' assets against the crippling onslaught of claims arising from audits.

While most auditors seek to mitigate potentially hazardous effects of high-risk activities, their efforts are being thwarted by the corporate governance brigade who, post Cadbury/Greenbury, continue to lumber them with duties they have no statutory brief to perform, and which serve only to widen their exposure.

Additions to published financial statements have been creeping up over the past three years. Annual reports now include a Statement of Directors' Responsibilities; Operating and Financial Review; Statement on Corporate Governance and compliance with the Code of Best Practice; and, soon to be introduced, a Statement on Effectiveness of Internal Control and a Report of the Remuneration Committee. It is intended that reviews of the last two and the Corporate Governance Statement should be formally reported on by the auditors. Reviews of other statements and the Directors' Report, are required under SAS 160, the Auditing Standard governing additional information included with financial statements.

The extra fees earned from this review work will be scant compensation for having to fight a writ for negligently confirming the effectiveness of internal controls just before the company is brought down by fraud from its own top dog!

Misdirected litigation

Executive management, usually the most appropriate target for plaintiffs in cases involving corporate loss and damage, have remained curiously immune from action in spite of widespread insistence by plc directors that the company buys it directors' and officers' indemnity cover which, is cheap compared with auditors' PI cover. For big firms such cover is not merely costly but largely unobtainable for many layers.

Public perceptions will not change overnight, but auditors themselves could do far more to achieve an even playing field. Incorporation is a positive step but hardly the whole answer. A pro-active approach, that would pay long-term dividends, would be for auditors of public interest (and hence high-risk) entities, before accepting appointment or reappointment, to insist that the client's board should be insured for at least as much cover as the directors would expect the auditor to carry.

In the event that auditors are targeted by a plaintiff, including the client company, whose most appropriate recourse lies against the directors, the auditors' PI insurer would have an effective remedy by seeking contribution against the directors' policy. This would also deter directors from bringing spurious actions in the company's name for failures they caused.

Non-executive cover

For this lateral approach to be fully effective, the non-executive directors should carry separate insurance as a complement to that enjoyed by the board as a whole, available in the event that the main D&O policy fails to respond.

Only in this way can non-executives establish their independence: *it is not possible in principle to be independent of those with whom you are insured.* Committees composed of non-executives will then be able to act in the knowledge that they can seek advice from their own insurers without having to alert the board's insurers pending their investigation of a potential problem.

Sensible corporate governance will ensure that those responsible for loss, rather than those who fail to spot it, should make it good. The auditors may well have to contribute, but they are rarely the main culprits.

Emile Woolf is head of litigation and insurance services at Kingston Smith, the accountant. Clive Boxer is a senior consultant at Davies Arnold Cooper, the solicitor.

Poster campaign deserves a pasting

IT WAS hard enough to grasp the embarrassment of the first poster campaign launched by the English ICA. This week it has launched its second. It is a dispiriting initiative. Normally the idea of posters going up to tell the public quite how much safer they would be were they to employ a qualified accountant would be a thoroughly praiseworthy idea. And the second slogan that the new poster campaign is using, "beware false profits", gets to the heart of it.

But there are several reasons why the poster campaign is so inappropriate and why the other accounting bodies are so irritated. The first is simple. The message being put over is also a subtler one. It is about the security of employing a chartered accountant, not simply a qualified one. The accounting bodies, and the public if they understood the lunacies involved, should tear their hair out over such nonsense at a time when the profession is in such disarray.

*It is as though last year's efforts to unify the UK profession through the proposals in the Bishop report had in fact started the world spinning faster. Instead of the accounting bodies moving closer in greater harmonisation as they had been doing, it now feels as though they are being spun apart and are rapidly occupying the periphery of the accounting world, rather than its centre. The idea of a poster campaign emphasising the use of the word "chartered" at a time when the certified accountants are in uproar over a name change and when the English ICA itself is in the midst of a sensitive period of attempting to merge with Cima, the management accountancy body, seems ridiculous. But the epidemic is spreading. The profession needs to be seen as a profession rather than a disparate bunch of warring factions and the last thing anyone needs is more unilateral proposals on regulation, for example. Yet last week we had another set of proposals for providing regulation and supervision.

Last year both the English ICA and the Scots ICA started out on the path towards some sort of proposals. The English produced a good framework very speedily, only to have its plodding council send the work back for lengthier and less independently-minded drafting. Meanwhile the Scots were working on a similar blueprint. But by the middle of the year, ludicrously, both the Scots and the English published very different proposals. Now we have proposals from the certified accountants for "a new supervisory body which would oversee regulation of the accountancy profession".

It almost does not matter what the detail of the proposals contains. The three main auditing bodies are now working quite separately on the same problem. This might be fine if the problem was peripheral, but regulation is not — it is a very urgent business. It ought to bring the accounting bodies together, working in harmony against a common enemy. Instead we have three learnt reports which struggle, with differing effectiveness, towards a common solution.

The process of putting the three reports together and producing a coherent plan which would satisfy practitioners, critics and the Department of Trade and Industry alike has only one certainty in its progress. It will take a long, long time.

In many ways nothing has been learnt. In the days when the professional bodies were responsible for standards, six separate technical committees representing each of the accounting bodies laboured through drafts and consultations before attempting to merge the results and promulgate them through a profession-wide accounting standards committee. At the end of the process each of the bodies still had the power of veto.

The accountancy profession learnt its lesson over standards. It was painful. But the process is now totally independent of the profession, though the accountancy bodies obviously have input into the system. Perhaps the time has come for the current leaders of the profession to think back to painful experiences and realise that only a completely independent body is going to work.

And perhaps they should reach that conclusion by taking a leaf out of the Accounting Standards Board's book. Just as the ASB held open hearings on goodwill at the beginning of this month, the accountancy bodies should schedule some open hearings on regulation for early next spring. Having talked through the problems, they could then produce a unified and fast solution by early summer. That sort of agreement might even justify a poster campaign to tell the public about it.

ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Somewhat underwhelmed

THE second tranche of the English ICA's poster campaign is exciting slightly less interest than the first. Earlier in the year, there was a sense of the bizarre about Roger Lawson, the then president, donning overalls and a bowler to put up a poster telling the world that it was "easier to sleep with a chartered accountant". This week the avuncular Keith Woodley had trouble waking up the world with the new slogan: "Nothing ventured, everything gained." Even his insistence that "this is something we all feel passionately about" failed to convince the world that chartered accountants are the answer.

In short

AUSTIN MITCHELL MP, was in fine form at this week's question time organised by recruitment consultant Hewitson Walker. Wearing a tie emblazoned "Mr Noisy", he had a simple answer to the question of what members of Cima, the management accounting body, might gain from a merger with the English ICA. "Nothing," he said.

Dog's life

MITCHELL was also in good form during a tail-end question. David Lyon of Nestor-BNA noted that auditors traditionally had been referred to as watchdogs rather than bloodhounds and asked which dog the panel thought the modern auditor resembled. Colin Sharman, KPMG senior partner, suggested a Springer spaniel because it went tenaciously about its business, but did occasionally look up to gain a wider picture. Mitchell suggested a lapdog.

Great escape

MARTIN SCICLUNA, Touche Ross's chairman, is furious over the speed of implementation of Stock Exchange rules based on Greenbury's recommendations. "Corporate governance overload," he expostulated on hearing that the SE is insisting on remuneration committee procedures appearing in reports and accounts for periods from December 31. Or it could be sour grapes that KPMG's first accounts, due January, escape.

The telephone number of Porpoise Books — publishers of You simply hit them with an axe *— is 01628 27387*

ROBERT BRUCE

Bluebird soars after world deal with Disney

By Philip Pangalos

SHARES in Bluebird Toys soared 96p to 366p yesterday after the toys group announced a key product development and marketing deal with Walt Disney Company and Mattel, the US groups.

In what analysts see as a potentially huge deal, Bluebird, whose existing products range from Polly Pocket miniature dolls to Mighty Max monster toys, will develop and market a range of miniature collectable playsets and toys for Disney.

The new range will be based on Disney's portfolio of classic and film characters, including Mickey Mouse and the Lion King, and will be launched in early 1996. Bluebird will develop the products and distribute them in the UK and Ireland, while Mattel, which has a long-standing distribution arrangement with Bluebird, will supply them throughout the rest of the world.

The new toys will be made in China and are likely to reach the UK market around March before being launched in the US and globally by the end of June.

Torquil Norman, Bluebird's chairman, said the deal gives Bluebird the opportunity to develop miniature toys based on the Disney characters. He said: "Our strategy is to develop and market products for the international marketplace. The Disney characters are leading worldwide brands in themselves and provide us with a wide range of concepts to which we can apply our proven skills."

The lucrative Disney deal is timely for Bluebird as its Mighty Max boys' brand, which enjoyed more than £20 million of sales in its first year, is fading fast after five years on the market. Polly Pocket remains strong, with its retail sales value now estimated at £90 million a year worldwide, while prospects are promising for Bluebird's new Mimi and the Goo Goos range of toys.

However, the prospect of new miniature versions of unisex toys ranging from Mickey Mouse and friends to the Lion King and Pocahontas characters will almost certainly see a re-rating of Bluebird shares.

Richard Hickinbotham of SBC Warburg said: "Very clearly, this is an absolutely superb move for Bluebird, with substantial benefits as anything with a Disney brand tends to sell well. Bluebird has reinforced its leading worldwide position in the field of high-quality competitively-priced miniature toys."

Play time: Peter Woodhead, Disney executive, left, and Chris Burgin, Bluebird chief executive

Double sale for Fisons

FISONS, the pharmaceuticals company subject of a £1.83 billion takeover by Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the Franco-American group, has completed the long-delayed sale of Curtin Matheson Scientific in the US and Fisons Scientific Instruments in the UK, the distribution businesses within its laboratory supplies division (Martin Barrow writes).

The buyer is Fisher Scientific, which is paying $310 million, representing $301 million in cash and the assumption of $9 million in debt. Completion comes less than one week after Stuart Wallis, chief executive of Fisons, conceded defeat in the takeover battle. Rhône-Poulenc Rorer secured victory by increasing its bid from 240p a share to 265p.

Flextech sells cable TV in UK

By Martin Barrow

FLEXTECH, the US-owned media group, has disposed of its cable television interests in Britain through the sale of IVS Cable Holdings to KPN Kabel for £62.6 million.

KPN Kabel is a subsidiary of KPN, the primary postal and telecommunications company in The Netherlands.

Under the sale agreement with Kabel, Flextech will receive about £59.3 million in cash. The businesses sold hold licenses to provide cable television and cable telephony services for four franchises in Oxford, Stafford, Andover, in Hampshire, and Salisbury, Wiltshire. The franchises cover a total of 216,000 homes.

Flextech, which is majority-owned by Tele-Communications, the largest US cable operator, said the sale continues its strategy of focusing on programming and providing thematic channels in Britain and continental Europe. It has acquired a 20 per cent stake in Scottish Television and has interests in 13 satellite channels.

Flextech is to commission £6 million of programming from Scottish TV over three years. As part of the £26 million investment agreement, Scottish took a 20 per cent stake in HTV, the ITV company for Wales and the west of England.

IVS also owns a licence to provide cable television systems on Jersey. That franchise is held by a 59.16 per cent-owned subsidiary of IVS. Flextech said it is currently considering the divestment of its interest in Jersey Cable.

Flextech shares fell 8p to 470p yesterday.

Profits at Ford dive 68% as sales fall

From Richard Thomson in New York

FORD, the second-largest car maker in the US, reported a 68 per cent drop in profits for the third quarter as sales declined in its home markets.

The fall from $1.1 billion last year to $357 million this time was steeper than the stock market had expected and is the worst of the big three carmakers' results. Chrysler reported a 46 per cent profits fall for the last three months, while General Motors reported a 16.4 per cent rise.

Ford blamed the drop in profits on lower production and lower US sales, which fell 12 per cent to 869,000 vehicles, adding that new models had not yet reached the public. Net income for US operations fell 66 per cent to $187 million from $553 million.

Alex Trotman, chairman, said: "This is clearly a transition period for Ford. We are in the process of launching a new wave of industry-leading new products. There will be costs associated with this record launch."

Among the new models is the revamped Taurus which has cost hundreds of millions of dollars to develop.

The higher costs helped to produce a loss for the company's worldwide operations of $201 million, compared with a profit of $619 million at the same time a year ago. Its financial services arm, however, reported record profits of $558 million compared with $505 million last year.

None of the car manufacturers has forecast a sharp upturn in profits in the foreseeable future.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Forth Ports bid wins Port of Dundee

FORTH PORTS has emerged as the preferred bidder for the Port of Dundee, defeating a rival offer by Caledonian Ports, a consortium comprising managers and employees of Dundee in association with Clydeport. The Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Transport have formally approved the offer by Forth, which is worth £10 million, on the recommendation of the Dundee Port Authority. The net purchase price, which includes the purchasers' and vendors' expenses of £1.35 million, will be paid in cash from the company's existing resources.

The Port of Dundee consits of more than 1,400 metres of wharves and 83,000 square metres of warehouses and transit sheds. Investment in new equipment amounted to £2.7 million in the three years to the end of 1994. Total turnover last year amounted to £5.3 million, while operating profits were £945,000. At the end of the last financial year net assets were £9.3 million.

Bridport-Gundry ahead,

BRIDPORT-GUNDRY, the specialist textiles and aviation products group, is optimistic after improved efficiencies and organic growth led to a 77 per cent advance in pre-tax profits to £1.34 million in the year to July 31. Turnover grew 4.7 per cent to £28.4 million. David Sebire, chairman, said: "I am confident that we shall be able to build on this renewed strength especially as the new financial year has started well." A final dividend of 2.22p is payable on January 17, giving an improved total of 3.6p (3p), from earnings ahead 40 per cent to 8.64p (6.16p) a share. The shares added 13p to 148p.

Dobson Park disposal

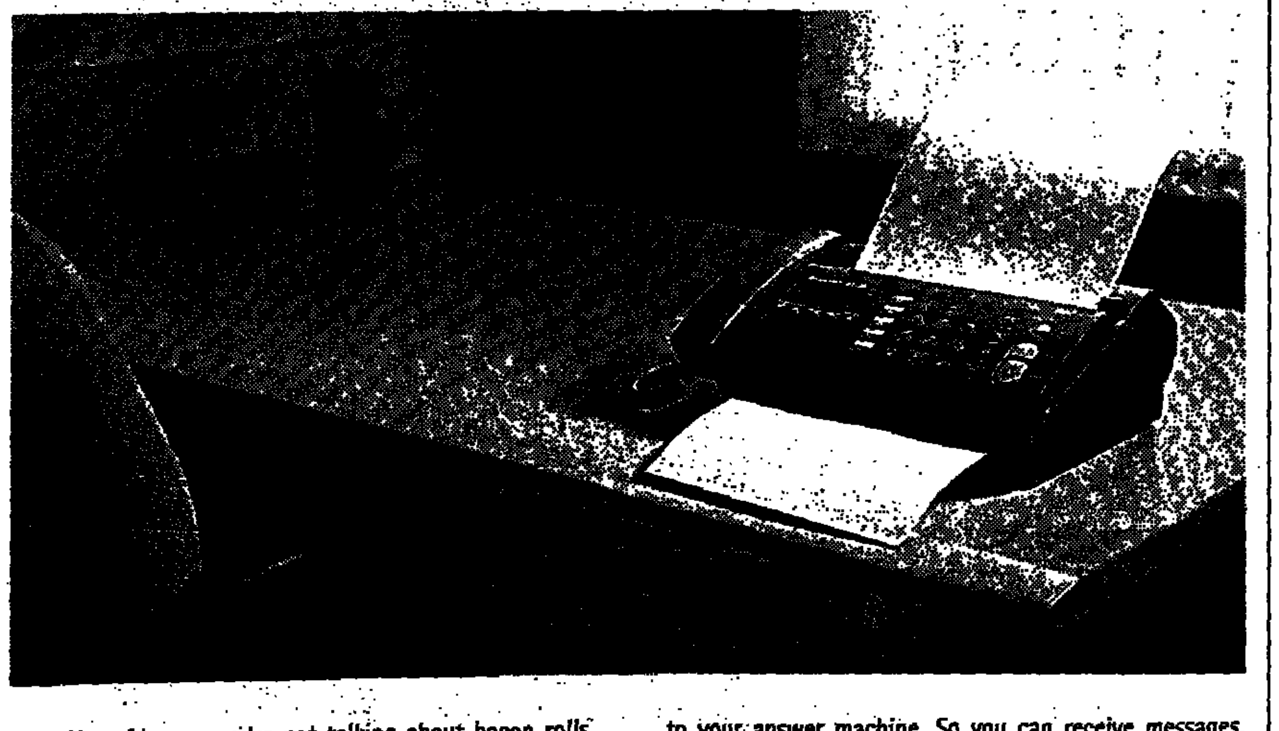
DOBSON PARK INDUSTRIES, the mining equipment company contesting a £170 million takeover bid by Harnischfeger Industries, of the US, is raising £4.9 million by selling a property, formerly used to make roof supports, at Ashchurch, Gloucestershire, to Caradon Duraflex. After the creation of Longwall International, Dobson Park's core mining equipment subsidiary, the roof support manufacture has been consolidated at Wigan. Dobson Park hopes to sell other properties with a total net book value of £7 million. Shares were unchanged at 124p yesterday, against the bid price of 110p.

Purchase for BNB

BNB RESOURCES, the recruitment, training and consumer communications group, is buying Goodman Graham, a human resources company specialising in the information technology and communications sectors. An initial £3 million is payable on completion, with further payments of up to £4 million due over three years. Future payments will be reduced if profits fall below £1.5 million before tax in the year to September 30. Goodman Graham's clients include Digital, Compaq and Teknekrom Software Systems. The company has offices in London and Radlett, Hertfordshire.

SRH buys newspapers

SCOTTISH RADIO HOLDINGS is diversifying into the regional newspaper market with the acquisition of Morton Newspapers in Northern Ireland for £11.2 million. Morton is the principal publisher of local newspapers in Northern Ireland, with 26 weekly titles, comprising 20 paid-for titles and six free. The consideration includes £6.7 million [illegible] cash and the balance in SRH shares. Despite the acqu[illegible]tion, the company said that it remains committed to [illegible]mmercial radio, where it will consider further acquisitio[illegible]nd apply for new licences advertised. SRH shares rose 1p to 298p.



Save valuable time between 9 and 5. Stop feeding.

No, of course we're not talking about bacon rolls, croissants and cheese sandwiches. We're talking about sheets of A4 paper.

You see, a UX fax machine from Sharp has a 15 page multi-sheet feeder, so there's no need to stand there watching over it. Simply place your document in the tray, press a button then press on with something else.

It also has automatic fax/phone changeover, which instantly determines between a voice and a fax call then adjusts accordingly. That way, your important customers will always be greeted by a friendly voice, not an unfriendly 'beep'.

Even if you're not around, the UX can be hooked up to your answer machine. So you can receive messages, phone calls and faxes all on one line.

And don't worry if you haven't got a brilliant memory. The UX fax has. It can store up to 15 of your most used numbers then automatically dial them at the touch of a button.

Why not save yourself some valuable time with a Sharp UX fax? Call free now on 0800 262958 quoting ref XTB1 and we'll feed you some more information.

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INTELLIGENT THINKING

AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
A TIMES COMPETITION

COLLECT 30 TOKENS TO WIN £20,000 – PLUS SAVE 10% ON THIS HOLIDAY

Win a tour of Sri Lanka

EVERY DAY until the end of December, The Times and *The Sunday Times*, in association with Cox & Kings, are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two to a range of destinations throughout the world.

Readers can also enjoy an exclusive 10 per cent discount off all 80 featured holidays and enter our prize draw *competition to win £20,000 to spend* on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Destinations to be featured include Syria, Nepal, Brazil; cruises to Tobago and Grenada; holidays in Singapore and Thailand, and trips to Chicago and California.

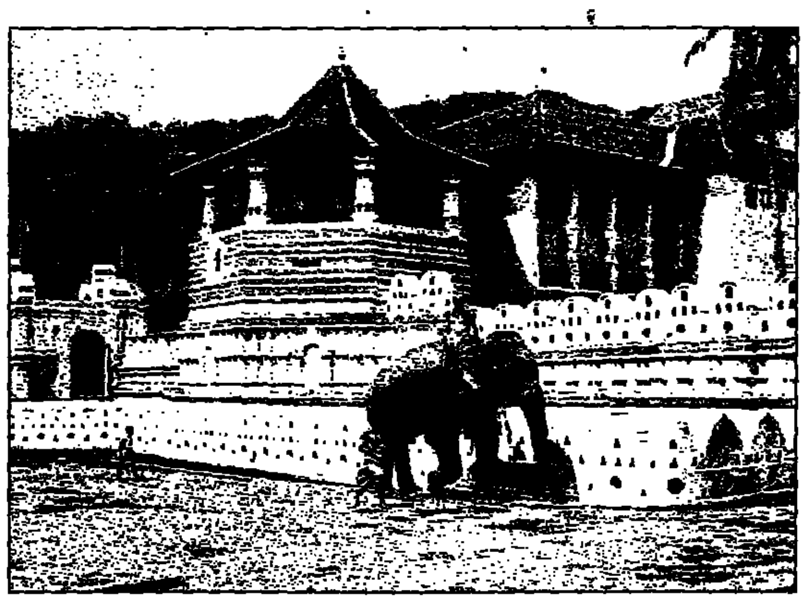
HOW TO WIN £20,000
Collect 30 of the differently numbered tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* and you can enter our prize draw to win £20,000 cash. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances to enter the draw. An entry form to attach the tokens to will appear in *The Times* every Saturday.

WIN A HOLIDAY IN SRI LANKA
Today's prize is an 11-day holiday for two people to Sri Lanka, worth £1,500. Sri Lanka has magnificent beaches, ancient historical and religious sites, national parks, virgin rainforest and rare flora and fauna. The holiday includes a visit to an orphanage founded to rescue baby elephants or elephants *which have been injured and abandoned, a trip to* Nuwara Eliya, *once the favourite hill station* of British tea *planters* and to Dickoya, the place where Adam is said to have first set foot on earth after being cast out of heaven. From Adam's Peak the tour takes in a short jungle journey to the national park and Sinharaja forest reserve.

HOW TO SAVE 10 PER CENT
The tour is operated by Cox & Kings, the world's oldest travel company and a leading specialist in tours to India. For details of how to get your 10 per cent discount on this holiday, call the brochure hotline on 01369 70 77 11.

THE TIMES
Around the World in 80 Days
£20,000
TOKEN 11

ITINERARY
Day 1 Fly to Colombo with Emirates Airlines via Dubai. Day 2 Transfer to the Taj Samudra, a four-star hotel overlooking the beach and set among acres of *gardens, for a one-night stay. Day 3 Drive up to Kandy and stay two nights* at either the lakeside Mahaweli Reach Hotel or the Topaz Hotel, at the top of a hill outside the town. Afternoon tour of the city visiting the Temple of the Tooth of Lord Buddha, the botanical gardens and the lake followed in the evening by a cultural dance performance. Day 4 Drive to Pinnewala Elephant Orphanage. *Day 5 Drive to Nuwara Eliya and stay one night at either the St. Andrews or Grand Hotels.* Day 6 Drive to Dickoya where a room will be available at the Upper or Lower Glencairne Bungalows while the day is spent exploring. After dinner there will be a moonlight walk to the base of Adam's Peak for the long climb to the top to wait for the spectacular sunrise. Day 7 Descend Adam's Peak and drive to Embilipitiya for one night at the Centuria Inn. Safari in Udawalawe national park, habitat for deer, crocodile, wild buffalo and herds of elephant. *Day 8 Tour Ratnapura, known as the "city of gems" because it is the gem centre of Sri Lanka and stay two nights at the Ratnaloka Tour Inn on a rubber estate. Day 9 Explore the dense jungle of the Sinharaja Forest where 231 species of flowers have been recorde*[illegible] Day 10 Drive back to Colombo an[illegible]y at the Airport Garden Hotel until your departure for the airport. Day 11 Early morning flight to London.



DATES OF DEPARTURES
Jan 19; Feb 16; Mar 15; Apr 5; Aug 16; Sep 13; Oct 11; Nov 15; Dec 20, 1996. Prices from £715, down from £795 include all flights, nine nights twinshare accommodation, air-conditioned transport, transfers, sightseeing, a local escort, breakfast.

● ***The winner of Tuesday's holiday to India was Mrs Wendy Putton of Newbury, Berkshire.***

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HOW TO WIN TODAY'S PRIZE

To win today's holiday answer the questions below and phone our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 which will be *open until midnight* tonight. The winner will be chose[illegible] *random* from all *correct entries* received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. Where is Adam said to have first set foot on earth?
2. Where is the elephant orphanage?

Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

TOMORROW: WIN A HOLIDAY TO BRAZIL

Shares surge to closing high

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
577½	413	Abbey Nat	568	+ 11	4.2	11.4
330	250	Allied Irish	328	+ 2	4.4	9.6
380	198	Aus New Z	270	- 2	5.2	8.1
4075	2531¼	Bank America	4018¾	- 68¾	...	...
268	191½	Bank Scotland†	263½	+ 5½	2.9	11.7
778	557½	Barclays	767	+ 15	3.7	10.5
426	288	Bk of Ireland	423	..	3.8	8.5
525	418	Cater Allen	483	...	7.5	7.3
4662¾	2450	Citicorp	4625	- 37½	..	..
340½	218¾	Close Bros▼	314	- 4	3.5	..
£162¼	£128¾	Commerzbank	£146¾	- 3¼	3.7	..
1375	993¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1137½	- 3⅛	0.5	..
3231¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3000	- 6¼	2.5	..
881¼	612½	Espirito Santo	684¾	+ 3¼	12.1	..
1611	1172½	Fuji Bank Y	1195	- 9½	0.4	..
480	395	Gerrard Nat	448		6.3	14.5
253	180	Hambros	210	+ 2	4.5	52.9
961	589	HSBC†	960	+ 9	3.7	12.5
947	578	HSBC Hl†	945½	+ 8½	3.7	12.3
336	229	Irish Perm†	334	- 1	3.6	7.7
463	353	Joseph (L)	423	..	5.2	23.6
145	85	King Shaxson	129		8.7	10.0
786½	530	Lloyds	786½	+ 18½	4.3	12.0
59[illegible]	479	Nat Aust Bk	551	- 2	6.9	8.5
685	454	Nat West	660	+ 16	4.3	10.2
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500		6.4	3.5
67	44	Rea Brothers	45		2.8	16.0
569½	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	564	+ 20	3.2	13.3
1478	906¾	Schroders†	1388	+ 15	1.3	19.5
1180	823½	Schroders N/V†	1120	+ 12	1.6	16.0
110	81	Singer & Fried†	107	..	4.3	11.1
525	246	Stand Chart†	519½	+ 10½	2.2	13.1
375½	217	TSB	372	+ 3	3.2	15.6
121	70	Union	108	- 1	3.4	..
£135¼	9043¾	Wells Fargo	£135¼	+ 337½	2.2	..
269¾	211	Westpac	265¼	+ 2¾	2.2	
295	200	Wintrust	395		4.8	16.9

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PHARMACEUTICALS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
918	425	Br Biotech	831	+ 5	...	...
345	103	Cantab Pharms	295	...	...	...
480	233½	Celltech	458	...	...	...
825	92½	Chiroscience	276	- 1	...	...
111	31	Cortecs	101	+ 4	...	...
288	108	Fisons	282½	..	2.2	...
809	587	Glaxo Wellcome†	795	+ 8	4.7	18.2
294	182	Medeva	282	- 7	1.6	18.1
719	273	Scotia	629	...	...	...
886	444	SmithKline	846	+ 8	2.5	18.2
657	416	SmithKline Uts	635	+ 11	2.5	18.9
1204	840	Zeneca	1183	+ 7	3.0	24.3

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SPIRITS, WINES & CIDERS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
566	481	Allied Domecq	517½	+ 2½	5.7	12.2
489¾	380	Bulmer (HP)	494	...	3.0	18.7
137	89	Burn Stewart	132	...	4.9	27.7
491½	332	Grand Met	454½	+ 9½	3.9	20.9
636	404	Guinness†	511½	- 4½	3.4	15.9
445	337	Highland Dist	395	- 12	2.8	18.2
217	175	Macallan-Glen†	206	...	0.8	45.7
710	600	Macdn Mrtn 'A'	640	...	2.1	23.4
672	532	Matthew Clark	639	+ 1	4.1	...
140	61	Merrydown W	134	...	0.9	...
240	120	Taunton Cider	238	...	3.7	23.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TEXTILES & APPAREL

TRANSPORT

WATER

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Stock	Int yld %	Gross red yld
Treas 12¼% 1995	12.68	6.59
Treas 14% 1996	13.75	6.59
Treas 15¼% 1996	14.58	6.58
Exch 13¼% 1996	12.77	6.61
Conv 10% 1996	9.67	6.57
Treas 7% 1997	6.99	6.79
Treas 13¼% 1997	12.31	6.65
Exch 10½% 1997	10.03	6.66
Treas 8¾% 1997	8.48	6.83
Exch 15% 1997	13.05	6.91
Exch 9¾% 1998	9.24	7.01
Treas 7¼% 1998	7.22	7.08
Treas 6¾% 1995-98	6.82	7.18
Treas 14% 1998-01	12.08	7.18
Treas 15½% 1998	12.75	7.20
Exch 12% 1998	10.64	7.28
Treas 9½% 1999	8.94	7.26
Exch 12¼% 1999	10.69	7.35
Treas 10½% 1999	9.57	7.37
Treas 6% 1999	6.29	7.40
Conv 10¼% 1999	9.36	7.48

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

Stock	Int yld %	Gross red yld
Conv 9% 2000	8.53	7.48
Treas 8% 2000	7.96	7.54
Treas 13% 2000	10.74	7.61
Treas 10% 2001	9.10	7.69
Treas 7% 2001	7.27	7.76
Treas 9¾% 2002	8.85	7.89
Treas 8% 2003	7.99	7.96
Treas 10% 2003	8.92	7.97
Treas 11½% 2001-04	9.92	7.82
Fund 3½% 1999-04	4.67	6.78
Conv 9½% 2004	8.73	8.09
Treas 6¾% 2004	7.39	8.10
Treas 8½% 2005	8.28	8.09
Conv 9½% 2005	8.72	8.13
Treas 12½% 2003-05	9.94	8.11
Treas 7¾% 2006	7.99	8.16
Treas 8% 2002-06	8.09	8.13
Treas 11¾% 2003-07	9.80	8.06
Treas 8½% 2007	8.31	8.18
Treas 13½% 2004-08	10.19	8.12
Treas 9% 2008	8.47	8.20
Treas 8% 2009	8.18	8.23

LONGS (over 15 years)

Stock	Int yld %	Gross red yld
Treas 6¼% 2010	7.58	8.27
Conv 9% 2011	8.47	8.27
Treas 9% 2012	8.49	8.28
Treas 5½% 2008-12	7.11	7.97
Treas 8% 2013	8.22	8.29
Treas 7¾% 2012-15	8.19	8.28
Treas 8¾% 2017	8.33	8.31
Exch 12% 2013-17	8.99	8.37

UNDATED

Stock	Int yld %
War Ln 3½%	8.32
Treas 2½%	8.44
Consols 4%	8.40

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 10% 5%

Stock	10%	5%
Treas IL 2% 1996	0.17	3.19
Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	2.05	3.23
Treas IL 2½% 2001	3.11	3.53
Treas IL 2½% 2003	3.27	3.67
Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	3.28	3.65
Treas IL 2% 2006	3.36	3.65
Treas IL 2½% 2009	3.44	3.68
Treas IL 2½% 2011	3.47	3.69
Treas IL 2½% 2013	3.51	3.70
Treas IL 2½% 2016	3.55	3.73
Treas IL 2½% 2020	3.59	3.75
Treas IL 2½% 2024	3.60	3.73
Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	3.59	3.74

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-do- Accum	455.40	484.50†	+ 2.60	5.82
Smllr Cos Div	55.83	59.39	- 0.17	2.84
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	114.70	122.00	+ 1.30	..
Asian Growth	319.60	340.00†	- 1.20	0.24
-do- Accum	375.60	399.50†	- 1.40	0.24
North American	91.38	97.21	+ 0.74	0.24
European Special	120.50	128.20	- 0.60	0.10
European	160.90	170.20	- 0.40	0.45
-do- Accum	210.90	224.40	- 0.40	0.45
Global Eqty Inc	110.70	117.50†	+ 0.30	2.19
Japan	399.80	425.10	- 1.50	.
Japanese Special	228.60	243.20	+ 0.40	...
Smaller Cos	120.80	127.70	- 0.20	1.16

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
M & S Inv Ptflo	165.20	173.90	+ 0.40	2.10
-do- Accum	192.20	202.30	+ 0.40	2.10
UK Sel Ptflo	145.00	152.70	+ 0.45	2.42
-do- Accum	170.90	179.60	+ 0.46	2.42

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Managed Tst	69.84	74.30†	..	3.67

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0131 479 4646

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Income	76.18	80.87‡	- 0.12	4.13
European	89.90	94.80	- 0.09	1.30
Income #	78.64	83.38	- 0.19	4.86

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Australasian Gold	25.33	26.96	- 0.14	...
Pacific Basin	46.29	48.71	- 0.06	...
Global Bond (US$)	0.9055	0.9432	-0.0001	..
Power Stock	43.03	45.29	+ 0.09	.

WHITTINGDALE UNIT TST MGMT LTD
0171 623 3444

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Challenger	97.39	99.96	- 0.04	2.90
Short Dtd Gilt	117.90	119.40	- 0.40	...
US Govt Bd (US$)	0.7920	0.7720	...	...
Gilt Income	50.47	52.52‡	- 0.05	7.00
Gilt Growth	72.66	75.63	- 0.16	...

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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Intl Mgd	50.72	53.92	- 0.07	1.76
UK Stockmarket	89.11	94.79	+ 0.53	2.37

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data. # Periodic Charge deducted from capital; @ Exit Charge.

House of Lords

Law Report October 19 1995

Court of Appeal

Time relevant only until breach of contract

Bovis Construction (Scotland) Ltd v Whatlings Construction Ltd

Before Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd of Berwick and Lord Hoffmann

[Speeches October 12]

In a clause purporting to limit damages for, among other reasons, non-performance of a *construction contract time* was relevant to the performance during its existence but once it was determined by repudiatory breach, *of whatever nature, time ceased to* have relevance. Thereafter damages flowed from the repudiation resulting in *non-performance and* the need to provide for substitute performance.

A clause limiting liability should *state* clearly *and unambiguously* the scope of the limitation and would be construed with a degree of *strictness, albeit not to the same* extent as an exclusion or indemnity clause.

The House of Lords so stated in *dismissing an appeal by the* defenders, Whatlings Construction Ltd, from interlocutors dated January 28, 1994 of the First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session (Lord Hope, Lord President, Lord Allanbridge and Lord *Mayfield*), *allowing a reclaiming* motion by the pursuers, Bovis Construction (Scotland) Ltd, against interlocutors dated February 11, 1993 of Lord Prosser, the Lord Ordinary ([Note] 1993 SLT 1224).

The Lord *Ordinary* had *held* that the terms of the sub-contract between the parties relating to limitation of damages applied to *the claim for damages* made by Bovis against Whatlings. The judges of the First Division had *held that they did not*.

Mr Roy Martin, QC, and Mr G. J. B. Moynihan, both of the Scots Bar, for Whatlings; Mr G. N. H. Emslie, QC and Mr J. R. Doherty, both of the Scots Bar, for Bovis.

LORD JAUNCEY said *that* Bovis were the management contractors employed by Glasgow *District Council to construct a new* concert hall. All the work of construction was sub-contracted to package sub-contractors of whom *Whatlings were one. It was their* task to construct the east and west frames of the building.

The terms of the sub-contract were set out in Bovis' printed form of sub-contract and in five letters passing between the parties. Two *letters dated July 6 and July 8, 1988* contained the limitation clause.

The relevant conditions of the printed form were: "1 Sub-contractor's undertaking: *The sub*-contractor will provide upon and subject to the following conditions *everything which is necessary for* the excution and completion of the sub-contract works in accordance with *all* drawings, specifications and or instructions supplied to him and will deliver up the sub-contract works to Bovis, complete *in every particular to the satisfac*tion of Bovis and of the architect or engineer appointed under the principal contract...

"2 Progress and Completion: *The sub-contract works are to be* commenced within 14 days after the sub-contractor is instructed to proceed and are to be completed *within the sub-contract period* subject only to such fair and reasonable extension of time as *Bovis shall allow where the sub*-contract works are delayed by causes which result in an extension of time under the principal con*tracts. The sub-contract works are* to be carried out diligently and in such order, manner and time as Bovis may reasonably direct so as to ensure completion of the main works... If the sub-contractor is in breach of the foregoing he shall, *without prejudice to and pending* the final determination or agreement between the parties as to the amount of the loss or damage suffered or which may be suffered by Bovis in consequence thereof, forthwith pay or allow to Bovis, and *Bovis may deduct from any* moneys due or becoming due to the sub-contractor..."

Condition 10 provided for the *determination of Whatlings'* employment if (i) they failed, within seven days of notice in writing from Bovis, to proceed diligently with *the sub-contract* works to the reasonable satisfac*tion of Bovis and (ii) they failed* upon notice from Bovis to commence remedial work to any defective workmanship or they failed to proceed with such work with diligence or to complete such remedial work.

The limitation clause contained in the *letters* was, *inter alia*, as follows: "... *we met the repre*sentatives of Glasgow District Council to discuss your porposals *regarding the limitation of dam*ages to be set against the main frame packages.

"The district council would not accept *the limitation of damages* which arose through your non-performance by way of failure to meet the requirements of the *specification* etc and wished to maintain their rights to pursue you for all costs in this respect through ourselves. However, *in respect of* time related costs they were prepared to accept the limit for damages set by you of £100,000. This acceptance *is given with the* proviso that you accept a set limit to your entitlement to recover *damages of £100,000 against other* package contractors Bovis ..., or the various members of the design team should their actions result in *you incurring costs which again* would be time related."

On January 16, 1989 Bovis wrote to Whatlings that Whatlings' ac*tion in substantially reducing* the site resources was such that they were not proceeding diligently *with the sub-contract works and it* had placed them in breach of contract under clause 2 and that in accordance with clause 10(i) Bovis gave notice *that* Bovis would summarily determine their employment.

On February 17 Bovis wrote to *Whatlings stating that as it was* apparent that they had no intention of trying to rectify the breach they were terminating their *employment*.

On February 28 Bovis raised the present action claiming damages of £2,741,000 in respect of Whatlings' breach of contract. Whatlings' fifth plea-in-law was that their liability to pay damages "in respect of the breach of contract condescended upon being limited to the sum of £100,000 in terms of the parties' contract, decree should be *limited* accordingly."

Turning first to clauses 1 and 2, *there was no doubt that the Lord* President was correct in concluding that clause 1 was a general clause to which clause 2 was subordinate. A sub-contractor who dragged his feet and then left the site before the sub-contract was completed might be in breach of *clause 2 for failing to carry out the* works diligently but he was undoubtedly also in breach of clause 1 for failing to deliver up the *completed works to the pursuers*.

In the present case, Whatlings, by their repudiatory breach in failing to proceed diligently after *receipt of notice under clause 10(i)* necessarily disabled themselves from performing their obligations to complete the works under clause 1. Nevertheless, it was said that damages flowing from the repudiatory breach were time related costs.

The first sentence of the limitation clause referred to non-perfor*mance by way of failure to conform* to the "specification etc" which prima facie suggested that other reasons for non-performance were *intended to be included*.

The second sentence made no reference to non-performance but merely referred to time related costs. Those words were intended to refer to damages flowing from late performance of the contract as *opposed to those flowing from bad* performance or non-performance.

Time was relevant to the performance of a contract during its existence but once the contract was determined by a repudiatory breach of whatever nature time ceased to have relevance. *Damages* thereafter flowed from the repudiation resulting in non-performance and the need to *provide for substitute* performance.

The two sentences were not, as was contended, between them intended to cover all possible breaches of contract by Whatlings. If the words "time related costs" covered *damages flowing from a* repudiatory breach resulting in non-performance odd situations could arise.

A clause limiting liability should state clearly and unambiguously the scope of the limitation and would be construed with a degree *of strictness, albeit not to the same* extent as an exclusion or indemnity clause: *see Ailsa Craig Fishing Co Ltd v Malvern Fishing Co Ltd* (1982 SC (HL) 14).

Whatlings had wholly failed to show that the second sentence of the limitation clause was so framed as to cover damages flowing from a repudiatory breach on their part leading to termination and hence non-performance of the sub-contract.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Mustill, Lord Lloyd and Lord Hoffmann agreed.

Solicitors: Morrison Skirrow for McGrigor Donald, Edinburgh; MacRoberts, Edinburgh.

'Best judgment' assessment in VAT appeals

Georgiou and Another v Commissioners of Customs and *Excise*

On an appeal under section 40(1)(m) of the Value Added Tax Act 1983, re-enacted in sections 83 and 84 of the Value Added Tax Act 1994, *against a tax assessment, a* VAT tribunal had a *supervisory* jurisdiction to adjudge objectively whether the commissioners had *made the assessment on the basis* of their best judgment.

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the *Queen's Bench Division, so stated* on October 6 in a reserved judgment *when dismissing on a* preliminary point of law an appeal by Marios and Androulla Georgiou, trading as Marios *Chippery, against a decision of the* Manchester VAT Tribunal on April 28, 1994.

HIS LORDSHIP said that "best *judgment" was to be viewed objec*tively by the VAT tribunal in two stages: first it had to decide what information, *before the commis*sioners at the time of the assessment, was relied upon. Information acquired post-assessment could not disturb the best judgment. That stage was a ques*tion of fact for the tribunal*.

Second, it had to find out how the commissioners arrived at their assessment, for example, any *computation of trading figures*. The tribunal had to make a value judgment about the way in which commissioners arrived at an assessment. That involved a re-assessing process. Its function was supervisory and was not to be exercised at too high a threshold, but at a reasonable standard: *Schlumberger Inland Services Inc v Customs and Excise Commissioners* ([1987] STC 22).

Lloyd's damages subject to income tax

Deeny and Others v Gooda Walker Ltd and Others

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and *Lord Justice Saville*

[*Judgment October 5*]

Damages recovered by Lloyd's names against managing agents and members' agents for the *negligent conduct of the names'* underwriting business were subject to income tax.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority, *Lord Justice Saville* dissenting, in a reserved judgment dismissing an appeal by the defendant members' agents *from a judgment* of Mr Justice Potter (*The Times* January 19, 1995), in favour of the plaintiff names. Leave to *appeal to the House of Lords was* granted.

Mr Bernard Eder, QC, Mr Philip Baker and Mr Simon Bryan *for the defendants*; Mr Geoffrey Vos, QC, Mr John Walters and Mr David Lord for the plaintiffs; Mr Ian Glick, QC and Mr Launcelot *Henderson, QC for the Revenue*.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the appeal raised the question of how damages *should be treated for tax purposes in the hands of plaintiffs* to whom they had been awarded.

That question had been considered and answered before but in *other contexts. The context* in which the question arose in the present case differed from that of *any of the earlier cases*.

The judge, however, applied principles laid down in earlier cases in upholding the arguments of the Revenue, supported by the plaintiffs:

1 that damages recovered in the plaintiffs' action against the defendant managing agents and members' agents were subject to income tax under Schedule D in the plaintiffs' hands and

2 that such damages were not to be reduced by the amount of any tax saving achieved by the plaintiffs in connection with their Lloyd's underwriting business.

Most of the members' agents but not the managing agents, who were in liquidation, now appealed on the first point alone.

*Lloyd's was a society of individ*ual underwriting members known as names. Insurance was effected by names grouped in syndicates. *Members' agents were underwrit*ing agents who advised names on their choice of syndicates, placed names on syndicates and gave *them* general advice.

Managing agents were underwriting agents who managed syndicates, underwriting contracts of *insurance at Lloyd's on behalf of* the names in their syndicates and reinsuring contracts of insurance.

The plaintiffs suffered heavy underwriting losses as members of syndicates in 1988, 1989 and 1990. They sued the defendants, claiming damages in tort and in contract for the failure by the defendants to *exercise reasonable* skill and care in conducting the business of underwriting on behalf of the plaintiffs.

In October 1994 Mr Justice Phillips awarded damages to the plaintiffs against the defendants (*The Times* October 7, 1994). Their Lordships were told that the value of that award was of the order of £300 million.

Sensibly, the Revenue were joined by consent to argue the tax issue before Mr Justice Potter. Mr Glick told their Lordships that that *was the first time that had hap*pened in relation to a dispute over damages, not being a tax appeal.

The charging provisions were to be *found in sections* 1 and 18 *of the* Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988. In consequence of those provisions income *tax* was chargeable under Case 1 of Schedule D, as set out in the Act, on the annual profits or gains accruing to any person, whether *resident in the UK* or not, from any trade carried on in the UK or, if that person resided in the UK, elsewhere.

Those profits or gains were the surplus of the revenue receipts of the trade over revenue expenditure wholly and exclusively laid out or *expended for the purposes of the* trade: see section 74(1)(a) of the 1988 Act.

In relation to the taxation of *Lloyd's names*, section 171 *of the* Finance Act 1993 provided:

"(1) Income tax for any year of assessment on the profits arising *from a member's underwriting* business shall be computed on the profits of that year of assessment.

"(2) As respects the profits aris*ing to a member from his under*writing business for any year of assessment — (a) the aggregate of those profits shall be chargeable to *tax under Case 1 of Schedule D*."

Mr Eder said that the damages did not arise from the trade of a name within the meaning of *section 18 of the 1988 Act, namely*, from his underwriting business: see section 171(1) of the 1993 Act.

The central *issue* in the appeal was whether the treatment of the damages for tax purpose was governed by two decisions of the *Court of Appeal: London & Thames Haven Oil Wharves Ltd v Attwooll* ([1967] Ch 772) and *Donald Fisher (Ealing) Ltd v Spencer* ([1989] STC 256).

In *Attwooll*'s case Lord Justice Diplock had said (at p815): "Where, pursuant to a legal right, a trader *receives from another person* compensation for the trader's failure to receive a sum of money which, if it had been received, *would have* been credited to the amount of profits (if any) arising in any year from the trade carried on by *him* at the time when the *compensation* is so received, the compensation is to be treated for income tax purposes in the same way as that sum of money would have been *treated* if it had been received, instead of the compensation.

"... the source of a legal right is *relevant to the first problem* involved in the application of the rule to the particular case, namely to identify what the compensation was paid for.

"... the second problem involved is to decide whether, if that sum of money had been received by the trader, *it* would have been credited to the amount of profits (if any) arising in any year from the trade carried on by *him at the date* of receipt..."

It seemed to his Lordship, as it had to Mr Justice Potter, that the approach *that* had to be adopted was that propounded in *Attwooll* and applied in *Fisher*.

To the first question, what were the *damages* paid for?, the answer was that they were paid for the trading loss caused to the name through the negligent conduct of *the name's underwriting business* by the defendants, the damages being intended to put the name in the same position as if the under*writing had been competently* performed.

Had the defendants protected the name's exposure to risk by *adequate reinsurance the name* would have received the proceeds of that insurance.

The source of the right was of *assistance not only in identifying* what the compensation was paid for but also in answering the question which was not expressly *or separately posed or answered in Attwooll* but was, in his Lordship's view, implicitly addressed, namely: did the compensation *arise from the trade?*

The common sense of the position was as follows. By reason of the negligence of their agents, the names *made* losses which the names rightly claimed as allowable losses for tax purposes, being losses incurred in their underwriting *businesses*.

If they had insured against losses resulting from the negligence of their agents, it seemed obvious that the insurance moneys received would have arisen from the names' underwriting businesses.

There was no material difference between such insurance recoveries and the actual recovery made in the present case through an action for damages against the agents.

In answer to the second question, would the sums of money, for *the failure* to receive which the names were compensated, have been income receipts of the underwriting businesses?, there could be no doubt but that the reinsurance proceeds would have had to be brought into account in the computation of the profits and losses of the *underwriting* businesses.

For those reasons, which were in substance the same as those set out *in Mr Justice Potter's judgment*, his Lordship concluded that the damages recovered by the names were subject to tax under Schedule D *in their hands*.

LORD JUSTICE SAVILLE, dissenting, said that *Attwooll*'s case and *Fisher*'s case were in fact concerned with the question *whether the compensation* was of a capital rather than a revenue nature.

Those cases were simply dealing with *how to categorise the receipt* where it was common ground or had already been established that it arose from the trade or business.

Lord Justice Simon Brown delivered a *judgment concurring with* Lord Justice Peter Gibson.

Solicitors: Elborne Mitchell; Wilde Sapte; Solicitor, Inland Revenue.

Young offender not liable to detention in default of payment of order

Regina v Basid

Before Lord Justice Beldam, Mr *Justice* Scott Baker and Mr *Justice* Stuart White

[Judgment October 6]

In respect of a young offender under the age of 18 the court had no *power to make an order of deten*tion in default of payment of a fine or confiscation order.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal *Division, so held in allowing in* part an appeal by Abdul Basid against sentences of detention in a young offender institution, under *section 53(2) of the Childrens and* Young Persons Act 1933, imposed in March 1995 at Inner London Crown Court by Judge *Prendergast on pleas of guilty to* unlawful wounding (15 months detention); possessing a controlled class A drug, heroin, with intent to supply (four years concurrent) and supplying heroin (three years *concurrent): a total sentence of four years* detention.

A confiscation order was also made under the Drug Trafficking *Offences Act 1986 in the sum of* £4,662.94 payable within three months, or three months consecutive detention in default of *payment*.

Mr Paul Keleher, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant.

MR JUSTICE STUART WHITE, giving the judgment of *the court, said that section 6 of the* 1986 Act provided that a confiscation order was to be enforced as if it was a fine and the relevant *provision relating to the fixing of* terms of detention in default of payment were to be found in section 9(1) of the Criminal Justice Act 1982, as amended by the Criminal Justice Act 1991. The power given by that section was *limited to persons under 21 but not* less than 18 years of age.

Accordingly, since the appellant was only 17 the part of the order *relating to detention in default of* payment would be quashed.

The sentence of 15 months for unlawful wounding would also be quashed. A sentence of detention *under section 53(2) of the 1933 Act* could only be ordered in respect of an offence where an adult could be imprisoned for 14 years or more. *No separate penalty would be* imposed.

The sentence of four years for possessing a controlled class A *drug with intent to supply would* be reduced to three years, giving full weight to all the mitigating factors. The total sentence was *thereby reduced to three years*.

European Law Report

Luxembourg

Place where harmful event occurred

***Marinari v Lloyds Bank plc* and Another**

Case C-364/93

Before G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, President and Judges F. A. Schockweiler, *P. J. G. Kapteyn*, P. Jann, G. F. Mancini, C. N. Kakouris, J. C. Moitinho de Almeida, *J.-P.* Puissochet, G. Hirsch, H. *Ragnemalm* and L. Sévon

Advocates General M. Darmon and P. Léger

(Opinions December 21, *1994* and May 18)

[Judgment September 19]

The term "place where the harmful event occurred" in article 5(3) of the *Brussels Convention on Jurisdic*tion and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters 1968 *did* not include the place *where the victim claimed to* have suffered financial loss consequential on initial damage arising and suffered by him in *another contracting state*.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held, on a reference for a preliminary ruling by the Corte *Suprema di* Cassazione, Italy, under the Protocol of June 3, 1971 on the interpretation by the Court of Justice of the *1968* Convention, on a question of interpretation of the Convention (OJ 1978 L304 p36) as amended by the Accession Conventions of October 1978 (OJ 1978 L304 p1) and October 1982 (OJ 1982 L388 p1).

The plaintiff lodged with a Manchester branch of Lloyds Bank promissory notes of an exchange *value of US$752,500,000* issued by a province of the Philippines in favour of Zubaidi Trading Co of Beirut.

After the bank staff had opened the envelope, the police were called and the plaintiff was arrested and the promissory notes sequestered.

On his release, the plaintiff brought an action in Italy seeking payment of the exchange value of the promissory notes and also compensation for the damage he claimed to have suffered as a result of his arrest, the breach of several contracts and injury to his reputation.

The bank challenged the jurisdiction of the Italian court on the *ground that the alleged damage* constituting the basis of jurisdiction had occurred in England.

The question referred was *whether* the "*place* where *the* harmful event occurred" in article 5(3) of the Convention meant only the place in which physical harm *was caused to persons or things, or* also the place in which damage to the plaintiff's assets occurred.

Article 5, by way of derogation *from the general* principle in the first paragraph of article 2 that the courts of the defendant's state of domicile were to have jurisdiction, provides:

"A *person domiciled* in a contracting state may, in another contracting state, be sued ... (3) in matters relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict, in the courts *for the* place where the *harmful event* occurred..."

In its judgment the European Court of Justice held:

The Court had on several occasions held that the rule of special jurisdiction in article 5(3), the choice *of which was a matter for* the plaintiff, was based on the existence of a particularly close *connecting factor* between the dispute and courts other than those of the state of the defendant's domicile, which justified the attribution of jurisdiction to *those* courts for reasons relating to the sound administration of justice and the efficacious conduct of proceedings.

In Case *21/76 Handelswekerij GJ Bier BV v Mines de Potasse d'Alsace SA* ([1978] QB 708; [1976] ECR 1735, paragraphs 24 and 25) and Case C-68/93 *Shevill v Presse Alliance SA* (*The Times* April 6, 1995; [1995] 2 AC 18, paragraph 20), *the Court had held that* where the place of the happening of the event which might give rise to liability in tort, delict or quasi-delict and the place where that *event resulted in* damage were not identical, the "place *where* the harmful event occurred" covered both *the* place where the damage occurred and the place of the event giving rise to it, so that the defendant could be *sued*, at the option of the plaintiff, in the courts for *either* of those places.

In those two judgments, the court considered that the place of *the event giving rise to the* damage, no less than the place *where* the damage occurred, could constitute a significant connecting factor from the point of view of jurisdiction.

It added that to decide in favour only of the place of the event giving rise to the damage would, in an *appreciable number* of cases, cause confusion between the *heads* of jurisdiction laid down by articles 2 and 5(3) of the Convention, so that the *latter* provision would, to that extent, lose its effectiveness.

However, the choice thus available to the plaintiff could not be extended beyond the particular circumstances which justified it.

Such an extension would negate the general principle laid down in the first paragraph of article 2 of the Convention and *would lead to* recognition, in cases other than those expressly indicated, of the *jurisdiction* of the courts for the plaintiff's domicile, which the Convention militated against by excluding, *in* the second paragraph *of article 3, the* application of national provisions which made such jurisdiction available for proceedings against defendants domiciled *in the territory* of a contracting state.

Thus, while it was recognised *that* "place where the harmful event occurred" could cover both the place where the damage occurred and the place of the event giving rise to it, it could not be construed so extensively as to encompass any place where the adverse consequences of an event *that* had already caused actual damage elsewhere *could be felt*.

Consequently, it could not be construed as including the place where, as in the present case, the victim claimed to have suffered financial damage *consequential on* initial damage arising and suffered by him in another contracting *state*.

For those and other reasons the European Court *ruled*:

The term "place where the harmful event occurred" in article 5(3) of the Convention was to be interpreted as not referring to the place where the *victim claimed* to have suffered financial loss consequential upon initial damage *arising* and suffered by him in another *contracting state*.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

PROVIDENT MUTUAL

NOTICE is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association ("the Association") will be held at the London Arena, Limeharbour, Docklands, London E14 on 15 November 1995 at 11.00 am when the following resolution will be proposed as a special resolution:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

THAT:

(1) The Scheme for the transfer of the long term business (as defined in the Insurance Companies Act 1982) of the Association pursuant to Section 49 of and Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act ("the Scheme") as set out in the document produced to the meeting and for the purpose of identification signed by the Chairman thereof and summarised in the Circular to members and policyholders of the Association dated 11 October 1995 be and is hereby approved for all purposes including, without limitation, for the purposes of Rule 3 (1) of the Rules and Regulations of the Association, and the Directors of the Association be and are hereby authorised and instructed to carry the same into effect with power to agree or make such amendments as may be necessary or desirable to secure the sanction of the Court for the Scheme.

(2) Subject to and conditionally upon the sanction of the Court for the Scheme being obtained:

(A) the name of the Association be changed to Provident Mutual Life Assurance Limited (the "Company");

(B) pursuant to Section 51 of the Companies Act 1985 (the "Act"), the Company be re-registered as a company limited by guarantee.

(C) pursuant to Section 51(3)(b) of the Act, a Memorandum of Association for the Company be adopted as follows.

"1 The Company's name is Provident Mutual Life Assurance Limited.

2 The Company's registered office is to be situated in England and Wales.

3 The Company's objects are the carrying on of long term insurance and reinsurance business and the doing of all such things as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of those objects.

4. The liability of the members is limited.

5 Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute such amounts as may be required (not exceeding £5) to the Company's assets if it should be wound up while he is a member or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of the Company's debts and liabilities contracted before he ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of the winding-up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors amongst themselves", and

(3) Subject to and conditionally upon the Scheme becoming effective and the issue by the Registrar of Companies of a new Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to Section 52 of the Act, the Rules and Regulations of the Association be and they are hereby amended as follows

(A) By the deletion of the definition of "The Association" in Rule 2 thereof and its replacement by the following

""Company" means Provident Mutual Life Assurance Limited".

(B) By the deletion of the definition of "Member" in Rule 2 thereof and its replacement by the following:

""Member" means a person who is entitled to membership under the provisions of Rule 5 hereof";

(C) By the deletion from Rule 2 thereof of the following definitions

"Dependant", "Qualifying Date", "Qualifying Policy", "Scheme Policy" and "Scheme Member";

(D) By the deletion of the existing Rules 1 and 3 thereof in their entirety,

(E) By the deletion of the existing Rule 5 thereof and its replacement by the following

"5. MEMBERSHIP

Notwithstanding any other provision of these Rules:

(A) General Accident Linked Life Assurance Limited and Gallas Nominees Limited (and such other persons as any company to which the long term business (as defined in the Insurance Companies Act 1982) of the Company is transferred under a scheme made pursuant to Section 49 of and Schedule 2C to the Insurance Companies Act 1982 shall nominate from time to time by notice in writing to the Company) shall become members of the Company at the time such scheme becomes effective or, in the case of persons nominated in writing as aforesaid, at the time of receipt by the Company of the relevant notice in writing.

(B) the membership of each person who becomes a Member pursuant to paragraph (A) of this Rule shall subsist until such time as the person in question gives notice in writing of the cessation of that person's membership to the Company; and

(C) all persons who become Members of the Company on or after the time such scheme becomes effective shall be qualified and entitled to act and to vote at general meetings of the Company".

(F) By the deletion of Rule 8(C) thereof in its entirety and its replacement by the following:

"(C) The Board may, whenever it thinks fit, call an Extraordinary General Meeting."

(G) By the deletion of Rules 8(D), (E), (F) and (G) thereof in their entirety and the deletion of the word "twenty" in Rule 8(J) thereof and its replacement by the word "two".

(H) By the deletion of Rules 9(A) and (B) thereof in their entirety and the deletion of the words ", subject to Rule 9(B)," and "on the relevant Due Qualifying Date. Any reference to an entitlement or qualification to vote in Rules 9(C), 9(J), 9(D) and 10(G) shall be construed accordingly" in Rule 9(C) thereof.

(I) By the deletion of the words "in the same manner as set out in Rule 8(F)" in Rule 9(J) thereof and the deletion of Rule 9(K) thereof in its entirety.

(J) By the deletion of Rule 10(C) and (D)(7) thereof in their entirety and the deletion of the word "qualified" in each of Rule 10(I), (J) and (L) thereof.

(K) By the deletion of the number "25" in Rule 10(G)(2) thereof and its replacement by the number "2" and by the deletion of Rule 10(M) thereof in its entirety.

(L) By the deletion of Rule 18 thereof in its entirety.

(M) By the replacement of references to "the Association" by references to "the Company", and

(N) By the re-numbering and/or lettering of the remaining Rules accordingly.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
Mrs V Steedman
Secretary

Registered Office
PO Box 568
25-31 Moorgate
London EC2R 6BA

Notes:

1. Any Member of the Association entitled to attend and vote at the Extraordinary General Meeting is entitled to appoint another person (who need not be a Member of the Association) as his proxy to attend and, on a poll, vote instead of him.
2. To be valid, an instrument appointing a proxy (which must be in writing) must be in any usual form or in any other form which the Directors of the Association may approve and such instrument, together with the authority, if any, under which it is signed or a copy of such authority, must be deposited at the address on the return envelope not later than 11.00 am on 13 November 1995.
3. Members intending to attend and vote personally are asked to bring with them the attendance card attached to the form of proxy which they have received or details of their policy and some means of identification. On arrival at the Meeting, please register with the officials who will be at the door. Registration will commence at 9.00 am.
4. Copies of the circular to Members and policyholders of the Association dated 11 October 1995 are available, free of charge, at the Association's principal office stated above, to Members and policyholders who have not already received a copy.
5. Copies of the documents setting out the Scheme, the Transfer Agreement and the report on the terms of the Scheme by an independent actuary, and various other documents referred to in such circular are available for inspection at the Association's registered office stated above and the branches of the Association listed in such circular.

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Firefly High Visibility Clothing Limited
Registered number: 02112331
Nature of business: Clothing Manufacturers
Trade classification: 08
Date of appointment of administrative receiver(s): 11 October 1995
Name of person appointing the administrative receiver(s): Royal Bank of Scotland Plc
Names of administrative receivers: Roger Marsh, Ian Clifford Powell
Office Holder No.(s): 5925 and 7852
Address: 9 Bond Court, Leeds LS1 2SN.

Notice of Administration Order
In The Matter of
PROCIS PLC
T/A SDL (UK) & SILICA
Registered number: 1404260. Nature of business: Computer Services. Trade classification: 8653. Administration order made: 13th October 1995. Joint Administrators: David Nisbet and Alan Redvers Price. Office holder nos: 6449/6846.

PENRYN LIMITED
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION ORDER
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 21 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that Michael William Young and Nigel John Hamilton-Smith both of Morton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD were appointed to act as Joint Administrators of Penryn Limited by an order of the Hight Court of Justice dated 3rd October 1995.
M W YOUNG AND N J HAMILTON-SMITH, JOINT ADMINISTRATORS

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

REDL, MABEL JESSIE, of 12 DENMAN ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, SE15 died on 6 JANUARY 1995 particulars to HEPBURNS Solicitors of BLENHEIM HOUSE, BLENHEIM GROVE, PECKHAM, LONDON SE15 4QX before 22 DECEMBER 1995.

BUNTING, ROBERT DESMOND of TAKIS TAVERNA, KONTOKALI CORFU, GREECE, died on 16 JULY 1995 particulars to MRS EMILY MACASKIE, BURTON YEATES WESTBURYS Solicitors of 58 ST MARTINS LANE, LONDON WC2N 4ER before 22 DECEMBER 1995.

WISEBERG, DR STANLEY, 22 Isokon Flats, Lawn Road, Camden, London, NW3, died 20th June 1994; particulars to Alexander Harris, Solicitors, Gordon Court, Mersey Road, Sale, Cheshire, M33 1FX, before 20th December, 1995

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344
OR
FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 005891 OF 1995
IN THE MATTER OF
JOHN WADDINGTON PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a Petition was on the 25th day of September 1995 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before Mr Registrar Buckley at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on the 1st day of November 1995.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 13th day of October 1995
EVERSHEDS
Cloth Hall Court, Infirmary Street,
Leeds LS1 2JB
Ref: L6.LLM.SKG.DOCS.HEY.ADV
Solicitors for the above-named Company

We act for the mortgagees in possession and have received an offer of £530,00 for the freehold property situated and known as 15 ROSE WALK, PURLEY, SURREY. This is a 4 reception room and 9 bedroom residence stripped of kitchen, bathrooms and other fittings. Any higher offers must be received in writing by us within 14 days. Hirsch, Way & Ambler, 120 Brighton Road, Purley, Surrey 0181 668 1211

ALGAR, WINIFRED MARY ALGAR Spinster late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 5 June 1995 (Estate about £9,000).

CAPPER, FELIX JAMES CAPPER late of Swanton Morley, Norfolk died there on 23 February 1995 (Estate about £36,000).

CASTLE nee LEACH, BETTY CASTLE nee LEACH Widow late of Salisbury, Wiltshire died there on 3 November 1994 (Estate about £37,000).

COLLEDGE, DORIS COLLEDGE Spinster late of Haswell, Co Durham died there on 11 June 1995 (Estate about £20,000).

GILBERT, LILLIAN JANE GILBERT otherwise GILLIAN JANE GILBERT otherwise GILLIAN GILBERT Spinster late of Bradford, West Yorkshire died there on 26 March 1995 (Estate about £13,000).

GLEN nee WATTS, LOUISA ETHEL GLEN nee WATTS Widow late of South Harrow, Middlesex died at Harrow on 29 June 1995 (Estate about £48,000).

GORDON, MARGARET ELIZABETH GORDON Spinster late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 8 February 1995 (Estate about £36,000).

HERON, CECILY WANDA HERON otherwise WANDA CECILY HERON Spinster late of South Kensington, London SW7 died at Chelsea, London SW3 on 16 August 1994 (Estate about £16,000).

KNIGHT, MONICA IRENE KNIGHT otherwise MONICA KNIGHT Spinster late of Wood Green, London N22 died there on 29 October 1992 (Estate about £7,000).

KULIG, ANTONS KULIG late of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire died there on 6 May 1995 (Estate about £5,800).

PILGRIM, NORMAN CHRISTOPHER PILGRIM otherwise NORMAN PILGRIM late of Palmers Green, London N13 died there on 28 December 1993 (Estate about £30,000).

REES, EVAN JOHN CLIFFORD REES otherwise JOHN CLIFFORD REES late of Sheffield, South Yorkshire died there on 30 March 1995 (Estate about £60,000).

ROBERTS, WILLIAM JAMES ROBERTS late of Southall, Middlesex died there on 28 January 1995 (Estate about £110,000).

SCHWARZ, WILLIAM FRITZ FREDERICK SCHWARZ otherwise FREDERICK WILLIAM SCHWARZ otherwise FREDERICK SCHWARZ late of Tufnell Park London N7, died at Islington, London N19 on 1 April 1995 (Estate about £100,000).

SEALE, LEONARD GEORGE MILSTEAD SEALE otherwise LEONARD GEORGE SEALE late of Acton, London W3 died at Hammersmith, London W12 on 11 June 1995 (Estate about £18,500).

SECKELSOHN otherwise SINGLETON, CURT SECKELSOHN otherwise CHARLES CURT SINGLETON otherwise CHARLES SINGLETON late of Hampstead, London NW3 died there on 10 November 1993 (Estate about £800,000).

TOBIN, FRANCIS VICTOR TOBIN late of Wallasey, Wirral died at Port Sunlight, Wirral on 11 March 1995 (Estate about £21,000).

WOODYATT otherwise WOODYATE, CYRILL FREDERICK WOODYATT otherwise FREDERICK WOODYATT otherwise CRYIL FREDERICK WOODYATE late of Clapham, London SW4 died at Denmark Hill, London SE15 on 11 June 1994 (Estate about £36,000).

The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

مكتبة الأهرام

هكذا من الأصل

■ FILM 1

The crude and unfunny slapstick of *Nine Months* isn't what the career of Hugh Grant most needs

■ FILM 2

... but another Englishman, Michael Radford, strikes a delightful note with his *Il Postino*

THE TIMES ARTS FILMS

■ FILM 3

Saved by a touch of self-mockery, *Mortal Kombat* is the latest video-game spin-off to hit the big screen

■ FILM 4

... while the diverting *Clueless* delves lightly into the lifestyles of rich kids in Beverly Hills

CINEMA: **Geoff Brown** finds Hugh Grant buried up to his floppy fringe in the Hollywood hokum of *Nine Months*

Sent down for gross decency

Julianne Moore and Hugh Grant as the expectant young couple in *Nine Months*, cast adrift on an extremely unfunny sea by writer-director Chris Columbus

Oh, Hugh! Whatever misdemeanour you may have committed with a woman acquaintance in a car off Sunset Boulevard pales beside the heinous crime of starring in Nine Months. This was the film that was set to open two weeks after Grant's little fling hit the headlines. Unfunny, grotesque, and painfully disjointed, the comedy about an unexpected arrival in a couple's life never begins to work.

Who can we finger for the crime? Not Grant himself: by making a cartoon of the floppy-haired Englishman who attended four weddings and a funeral, he was simply following Hollywood's desires and pursuing a limited character to its dead end. No. The man chiefly responsible is Chris Columbus, writer and director of this and *Home Alone*, although we should not forget Patrick Braoudé, the Frenchman whose film *Neuf mois*, a local hit last winter, gave the American offering its plot.

The nine months, of course, refer to a pregnancy. Grant's partner in the film, Julianne Moore, is overjoyed. Grant is not: on hearing the news he crashes his beloved red Porsche. Indeed, he is so appalled by the prospect of pattering tiny feet that you wonder how he survives in his job as a child psychologist in San Francisco.

Still, the man has nine months to reconsider: time spent in an excruciating jumble of heavy slapstick and sentimentality, gauche nightmares about a praying mantis, coy sex, and crude fooling with Robin Williams (cast as a Russian obstetrician more familiar with monkeys than humans). Columbus never appears to care about linking one scene with the next: he just throws ingredients at the audience and trusts some will hit home.

By the time Moore comes to term, parenthood has been enthroned and domestic bliss is imminent. But what of Grant? Any charm he might possess has been squeezed out by the Hollywood machine, and the little shots of Hugh rollerblading, or Hugh getting his ears pierced, are scarcely enough to create new endearments. Time he returned home for a refit.

After the crass comedy of *Nine Months*, **Il Postino** offers such sweet balm that its faults almost seem insignificant. Yes, the storyline ultimately shreds into pieces. Yes, the shooting style is plain, sometimes to the point of dullness. But this is a film with a heart and soul; a film keyed to the wonderful performance by actor and director Massimo Troisi as a fisherman's son on an island off Naples who discovers wider horizons delivering post to the exiled Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

The director is an Englishman, Michael Radford, who showed his love of things Italian in his first feature *Another Time, Another Place* 12 years ago. Radford had wanted to use Troisi then, as one of the Italian POWs far from home in the Scottish Highlands. By the time the two teamed up on *Il Postino*, Troisi was seriously ill with heart disease; he died, in fact, only 12 hours after shooting finished.

"This movie is my life," he told Radford, "and I want to give it the last bit of my old heart." His sickness does not particularly show on screen, but it lends a special poignancy to the tale of Mario, a simple, shy man opening up like a flower in spring.

The year is 1952. Neruda, out of favour with Chile's authorities, has been granted sanctuary in Italy. He arrives in the person of a dubbed Philippe Noiret. Piles of letters from admirers await; Troisi and bicycle are enlisted to clear them.

The film's core lies in the scenes between the two men. Friendship builds slowly. Neruda at first is aloof, condescending; but the postman's dog-like devotion, his inquisitiveness about the poet's Communist beliefs and the stuff of poetry, win him over. Since Neruda is renowned as the poet of love, Mario is keen to use his new knowledge of lyrical metaphors to woo the voluptuous local barmaid. A smile "spreads like a butterfly"; a breast becomes "a fire with two flames". Throughout, Troisi's bashful hesitations and sweetness of character are a joy to watch.

Once Neruda's exile ends, the film begins to lose focus. The old tenderness returns when Mario tape-records local sounds to send as a memento to his idol: sounds of waves, the wind, a baby's heartbeat. The plot's final steps are too hurried and arbitrary to round off the film with the proper flourish, but audiences should be bathed in enough warmth not to feel peeved.

Radford, scarcely heard from since his 1987 feature *White Mischief*, does not try anything fancy. His simplicity of approach and compassion recall the neo-realist films of Vittorio de Sica, whose ghost also danced through *Another Time, Another Place*. No Tarantino, then; but in today's madhouse you need a few quiet voices, prepared to take time and watch their characters grow.

Back to bedlam with **Mortal Kombat**, the latest video and arcade game to reach the big screen. Novices may find the ground rules difficult to follow, though if you cut away the baroque detail you are left with a blunt, noisy, violent fight between good and evil. In the good corner stand three earthlings, a hesitant expert in martial arts, a vainglorious actor, and a tough-minded girl with a useful fondness for figure-hugging clothes. On the bad side lurks an army of extra-terrestrial bozos under an evil sorcerer's thumb. At stake is the fate of the entire world.

Grace and subtlety are not needed here. In any case Paul Anderson, the young British director of *Shopping*, would be unable to deliver them. He is a pulveriser. Now, in America, he can ram home his images backed up by a Hollywood-sized budget and an avalanche of special effects. Depending on your age or sensibility, you sit enraptured or cower in terror as the characters fight each other to bits.

In its genre, *Mortal Kombat* does boast a few advantages. It moves along, and keeps a self-mocking tone, although with Christopher Lambert's laidback guru in long grey locks you never know how much humour is planned, how much accidental. No famous names decorate the rest of the cast, for no names are needed. This is not a film about people: this is about violent visual sensation, and multimedia marketing.

"What did you do in school today?" Dad asks. The blonde bombshell daughter thinks: "Well, I broke in my purple clogs." **Clueless** bounces along with similar exchanges as it explores the lifestyles of Beverly Hills kids, for whom school is a brief intermission between trips to the mall.

Amy Heckerling, the writer and director (*see interview below*), began her spotty career 13 years ago with another teen movie, *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*. Her ear is still close to the ground: you cannot fault the lingo or body language of the dizzy girls led by Alicia Silverstone, previously best known for bungee-jumping off a bridge in an Aerosmith music video. After firing its opening shots the movie settles for frivolity, not satire. The film could be better: and it could be much worse.

Heckerling has one strength as a comedy director: she knows how to shape performances. Michael Moore does not, and it is painful to watch the documentary maverick of *Roger and Me* make such a botch of his actors in **Canadian Bacon**. All seem left to their own devices, and most of the devices are not funny. Not that Moore's script helps. He begins with an outlandish notion: itching for a foreign adventure after the Cold War's demise, America starts strafing Canada with insults. But any delight at stray lines of dialogue is quickly tempered by the crudity of Moore's satire and the monotony of a one-joke film. The subtlest joke lies in the casting: the late John Candy, playing the Niagara Falls sheriff who leads skirmishes across the border, was Canadian himself.

Nine Months
Odeon West End
12, 103 mins
The Hollywood machine swallows Hugh Grant

Il Postino
Curzon Mayfair
U, 108 mins
Heartwarming delight from Italy

Mortal Kombat
Warner West End
15, 101 mins
Kritic-proof movie of the video game

Clueless
Plaza, 12, 98 mins
Frivolous fun with Beverly Hills teenagers

Canadian Bacon
MGM Piccadilly, PG, 95 mins
One-joke comedy from Michael Moore

Jane Austen goes shopping

Amy Heckerling tells **Matt Wolf** how *Emma* made her *Clueless* a surprise summer hit in America

You can't really walk into a Hollywood studio and go 'Jane Austen', and have them see dollar signs," says director Amy Heckerling, explaining the disguised provenance of her very American and contemporary *Clueless* in the sedate 19th-century England of Jane Austen's *Emma*. While other film adaptations of novels trumpet their literary sources, Austen's 1816 novel is nowhere to be found in the credits for *Clueless*.

Presumably, references to Austen were kept to a minimum during the pitch so as not to put the movie in turnaround, to employ the filmspeak jargon gratefully unknown in Austen's day. "During what we call development hell, the thing is to incorporate the notes you're getting from the studio people while trying not to ruin what you want to be doing," Heckerling says. "*Emma* was my structural tree for myself to do some sort of comedy of manners."

The choice of *Emma* as a blueprint permitted fresh variations on a genre not exactly known for its literary virtues. "You say 'teen comedy' and you think, OK, what should it be: a bunch of sex at parties, or that the girl gets the boy at the end? It has to say something, and *Emma* lays it all out so wonderfully. It's about someone who realises the world is best if she just leaves it alone a little bit.

"I re-read the novel," Heckerling continues, "and everything fell into place. Every time I would run into trouble, I would just read it again and go, you know, all the answers are here. That sense of class and the social dynamic — these are the people we hang with, these aren't — holds up. But", she says of the book, "it was very much not a selling point."

Amy Heckerling at work: "*Emma* was my structural tree"

Whatever its origins, *Clueless* emerged as one of last summer's unexpected surprise successes in America — a modestly budgeted film (some $15 million) that to date has grossed about $55 million in America alone.

The result has made British-born teenage star Alicia Silverstone one of Hollywood's hottest "babes", while reviving the career of its director, now 43, a graduate of New York University and the American Film Institute.

Prior to *Clueless*, Heckerling was best known for the first two *Look Who's Talking* films, a pair of winsome if popular comedies inspired by the birth of the director's daughter Mollie, now aged nine. Mollie's cameo role in *Clueless*, as a child journalist who interviews the skateboarding heartthrob Travis, was cut from the final film.

Heckerling's current film recalls her maiden directing effort, *Fast Times At Ridgemont High*, a teen comedy with nous and boasting a cast headed by then-unknowns Sean Penn and Jennifer Jason Leigh.

Did *Clueless* feel like a return to familiar terrain? "You do sometimes think, 'How many ways are there to shoot a classroom?' " Heckerling says. "It's like, one more scene of people at their lockers, and I'll throw up."

But, she says, "to me, the two movies are entirely different. First of all, I did not write *Ridgemont High*, which is this non-judgmental slice of life in a lower middle-class mundane world. When I was making *Clueless*, I thought, 'I'm going to get busted for this; they are going to say I'm copying myself, but what can I do? If I get blamed for that, so be it'."

Among the singular elements of *Clueless* is its highly specific language — the press kit helpfully includes a glossary intended for "the chronically clueless" — which redefines words like "postal" and "toast" and invents such new ones as "zup" and "jeepin' ". "I enjoy slang, all kinds of slang," Heckerling says. "That was my favourite part of the film. I compiled my own dictionary using words from teen fashion and rock'n'roll, and of course every actor that would come in to audition would have his own new words."

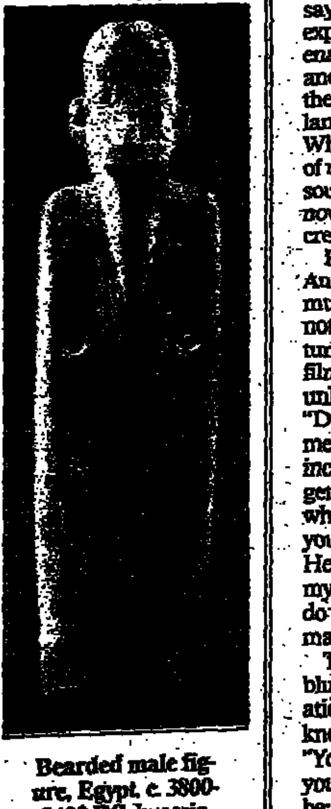
Heckerling says she "would not be averse to writing the sequel — "*Clueless In College* or that sort of thing" — which has inevitably been mentioned, but she admits that it is not easy these days in Hollywood to know what to do.

"It's like, what kind of explosion has not already happened? What kind of movie with a mad bomber have we not seen? What 'they meet, they hate each other, they love each other' situation?"

"My favourite movies are *A Face in the Crowd*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Reservoir Dogs*, *Mean Streets*. I like to watch those, but as far as what I am able to create goes, they are much sillier, lighter pieces."

VISIONS OF AFRICA

Highlights of the Royal Academy's current show



Bearded male figure, Egypt, c. 3800-3400 BC, breccia

Stone statuettes such as this are derived from a mysterious class of objects known as "tusks". They take their form from the incisor of a hippopotamus, and they are often found in graves, where they might have been used to ward off evil spirits. They usually appear in pairs, one hollow, the other solid, and their possible coupling is indicative of a fertility ritual.

"WHAT A DELIGHT!
A GORGEOUSLY FUNNY AND TENDER STORY WITH MARVELLOUS PERFORMANCES. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED."
ANGIE ERRIGO - PREMIERE
"AN UTTERLY ENCHANTING ROMANCE
ANYONE WHO LIKED 'CINEMA PARADISO' WILL LOVE IT."
ROB DRISCOLL - EMPIRE
IL POSTINO U
(THE POSTMAN)
STARTS TOMORROW
MGM TOTT. CT. RD.
GATE
METRO RUPERT ST. W1
RITZY
Barbican
AT SELECTED CINEMAS FROM NOV 3RD

■ CHOICE 1

Christoph von Dohnányi conducts the Philharmonia in Mahler's Fifth

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall

■ CHOICE 2

Britten's Czech connection is explored in an Aldeburgh festival

VENUE: Until Sunday at Snape Maltings

THE TIMES ARTS

■ THEATRE 1

Son of Man, Dennis Potter's controversial 1969 play about Jesus, is fitfully revived by the RSC

■ THEATRE 2

A Jo'burg slum is the setting for *Marabi*, a powerful account of life on the bottom rung

Pottering around the gospel truth

Son of Man
Barbican Pit

I am a Pontius Pilate man myself, rather than a Simon Peter one or a Jesus of Nazareth man. But it is far from clear where Dennis Potter aligns himself in the stage-play he adapted from his BBC television script in 1969.

One does not have to be a Christian to find the character of Jesus Christ abidingly interesting. Any man who has exerted for so long and so powerfully an influence on other men's minds deserves close scrutiny, particularly since we possess so few verifiable facts about his personality. When the scales fell from Paul's eyes on the road to Damascus they fell onto the body of Jesus and obscured him from our sight for ever.

Under the old censorship laws, British dramatists were prevented from showing Christ in the theatre, and when the Lord Chamberlain's blue pencil was snatched from him, in 1968, Potter was the first writer to take advantage of the new dispensation.

As the title implies, this version of Christ is a man merely. Potter introduces no miracles into his story, nor does he find a place for the Last Supper. His Christ is a carpenter who, possibly after an epileptic fit, comes up with the shattering message that men must love their enemies. By presenting us with a society oppressed by Roman cruelty the injunction is given its vivid, extraordinary and, some will think, nonsensical novelty.

But this production does not simply give us Potter's view of events: it is Potter altered, though I cannot say how greatly, by the director, Bill Bryden. The original cast list reveals characters who have since vanished — a dove seller, a leper (was there once a miracle, or a healing that failed?) and another crucified Jewish rebel. Something of this last incident may be surviving in the scene where Joseph Fiennes's Jesus is moved, by the sight of an untenanted cross, to contrast God's tree with the purpose to which men have put it.

After the opening, set in Hayden Griffin's realistic carpentry shop, the eight work-benches are pushed together and planks fitted firmly on top to create a cruciform platform, on which most of the subsequent action occurs. For much of the time Bryden marshals the cast sensibly, creating effective tableaux with the disciples at the centre of the cross or towards the back.

But the two trial scenes are atrociously staged. Caiaphas was looking at Jesus for a long time, and I expect Jesus was doing something or other, but my section of the audience had no idea what, obscured as he was by the unmoving bulk of two temple priests. Blow me if two Roman soldiers didn't replace them when it was Pilate's turn. No director should be permitted to show such contempt for his audience.

Fiennes's performance accurately gives us what Potter seems to have wanted, an uncommon man of the people who believes himself inspired by his God yet never certain that he truly is the Messiah. It is a feverish, breathless reading, effective in these terms although, in seeking to convey charisma, both playwright and actor cross into dementia.

John Standing's intrigued, intellectual Pilate and the Caiaphas of Philip Locke, his resonant voice soaring and plunging, are strong, credible interpretations. But after watching Jesus's protracted crucifixion, with no writhing spared, there is still nothing to explain why this visionary inspired a religion that has lasted almost as long as the cults of Ancient Egypt.

JEREMY KINGSTON

DONALD COOPER

Joseph Fiennes as Jesus, about to be betrayed, in the Royal Shakespeare Company staging of Potter's *Son of Man*

From tribes to dives

Marabi
Theatre Royal,
Stratford East

This is one of the main theatrical offerings of the Africa 95 season. Would that there were more. Set in the 1930s slums of Jo'burg's Doornfontein, soon to be removed by the authorities, *Marabi* is delightfully adapted by Junction Avenue Theatre Company from *The Marabi Dance* by Modikwe Dikobe, the first black novelist to portray poor urban life.

Malcolm Purkey's workshop production is a warm celebration and sharply critical appraisal of Doornfontein's bottom-rung black culture, both riven and rich, caught between the still-respected tribal customs of the farmlands (abandoned after the dispossessing Land Act) and the next generation's attraction to the Marabi music clubs. Those clubs, rough and ready but red-hot, are the subject of scorn, admiration and argument, morally loose or maybe leading to a glittering career in black-tie jazz that some see as getting on, others as selling out.

With long-matured skill and spiritual freshness, the company depicts the story of the Mabongo family and their friends, ranging from the unionised Makhalima to Ntebejane, a drunken but scintillating Marabi pianist. Presenting the struggles between the workers and their white masters and between patriarchal Mr Mabongo and his daughter Martha, a potential star singer, the cast talk jazz and politics in the same animated breath, just as they lace spoken scenes with a capella songs.

True, some *têtes-à-têtes*, especially with Martha's sweetheart, are too flatly hurried. At the other end of the spectrum comes some pretty broad caricaturing of home-brewed leglessness and little-girl romping. But the ensemble work is beautiful and the comic exaggeration bursting with high spirits.

Marabi's triumph is its effortless interlocking of pointed political lessons with generous comedy. Joan Littlewood would be proud. The Stratford East audience, terrific as always, whoops approval. This is Poor Theatre with polish.

KATE BASSETT

Overblown nightmare

Fragments of a Dream
Riverside Studios

Why, *Kate Bassett asks*, do the worst plays always come with the sound of slow ticking? As the room temperature soared, the dramatic tension sank to new lows and Tom Minter tortured us with yet more poetically overwritten, psychologically crude monologues in his new play concerning the maddening guilt of a son-obsessed mother and the uncathartic serial killing by a magician. Both of them happen to end up in the same sanatorium 20 years on from the death of the mother's little boy, stabbed in a trick sword-box at his birthday party. Minter's drama is about punishment and mercy.

The characters' encounters, as the title suggests, could be a cerebral fantasy seen in flashes. The opening scene of the mother, Alicia, lavishing affection on her boy and quarrelling with her jealously bristling husband turns out to be in her unhappy mind. We next see her woken by a caring nurse. Alicia's late husband is now the cruel personification of her conscience.

Regrettably, the concept of imagination is clumsily managed. During that first scene, Alicia in conversation with an invisible child looks like a desperate casting decision, even if mummy (Rachel Herbert) is doing a convincing enough impression of insanity. Many scenes are (mercifully) brief, potential dream-fragments were it not for the clunking scene-changes.

Nevertheless, Bruce Athol MacKinnon's basic backdrop, a patchwork of fading grey squares, creates a suitably grim mindscape against which Ian Cullen's white-gloved conjurer, with his sunken face and cranky check suit, is vaguely nightmarish.

Minter's writing is not without hope. There are some surprising plot twists, an incipient lyrical beat and a stylistic boldness. The large cast, though struggling, do get into their stride.

But this piece is a bizarre muddle of pseudo-Shakespearean turns ("Come, stupid murderer"), near-gothic melodrama ("Damn you, mother") and a modern hospital drama, with the Nurse embarking on lectures in religio-medical ethics whenever she passes Matron in the corridor. Minter's dialogue is unbelievable. Our dreams are peopled by more frighteningly real human beings.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

CYRANO. First night of previews for Edmond Rostand's bittersweet love-story, relocated to colonial India in a co-production with Tara Arts. Indian stage and screen star Naseeruddin Shah plays the swashbuckling lover with the extravagantly large nose. Verse text by Ranjit Bolt.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Previews tonight-Tue, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Oct 25, 7pm. In rep 🅂

THE FAIRY QUEEN. English National Opera offers a new production of Purcell's dazzler as its contribution to the composer's tercentenary celebrations. The team of director David Pountney and designers Robert Israel and Dunya Ramicova should provide quite a spectacle for a piece that decks the framework of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with masques, pageantry, satire and magic. See preview, page 37
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tonight, 7.30pm 🅂

PHILHARMONIA PREMIERE. Richard Rodney Bennett follows up his recent cabaret success at Pizza on the Park with tonight's premiere of *Partita for Orchestra*. Christoph von Dohnányi conducts the programme, which includes Mahler's Symphony No 5.
Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tonight, 7.30pm 🅂

ELSEWHERE

ALDEBURGH. The focus of this year's Britten festival is the extraordinary tradition that produced Smetana, Dvořák, Suk and, now, Petr Eben. **Britten and the Czech Connection.** Celebrations open with tonight's performance of Smetana's *The Bartered Bride*, followed by recitals, an imaginative "improv" programme with Petr Eben, and a world première for Britten's *King Arthur Suite*.
Festival Box Office, High Street (01728 453543). Until Sun.

SOUTHAMPTON. Derek Deane takes all the fun and magic of Lewis Carroll's **Alice in Wonderland** for his first full-length creation for English National Ballet. It premieres tonight and in addition to the familiar characters Deane even promises a flying house. Designs are by Sue Blane and special effects by illusionist Paul Kieve, with a Tchaikovsky score specially arranged by Carl Davis.
Mayflower, Commercial Road (01703 711811). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mats today and Sat, 2.30pm 🅂

MANCHESTER. Amanda Donahue takes the title role of Strindberg's **Miss Julie**. Directed by Braham Murray, with Patrick O'Kane as the valet, Marie Francis his fiancee.
Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square (0161-833 9833). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm; Fri, Sat, 8pm; Sat, 4pm. Until Nov 18 🅂

Also in Manchester tonight, the **Hallé Orchestra**'s former music director, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski, returns to conduct a programme of Dvořák and Shostakovich. Conductor Owain Arwel Hughes and violinist Tasmin Little appear with the orchestra on Saturday in Kendal for Elgar and Beethoven.
Free Trade Hall, Peter Street 🅂 (0161-834 1712). Tonight, 7.30pm. **Kendal**, Westmorland Hall 🅂 (01539 729511).

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Dora Carrington (0171-638 4141) . . **Chelsea Crafts Fair**: Old Town Hall (0171-738 6720) . . **National Gallery**: Three Paintings by Piero di Cosimo (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery**: John Kobal Photographic Portrait Award (0171-306 0055) . . **Royal Academy**: Africa: Art of a Continent (0171-439 7438) . . **Tate**: Tudor and Jacobean Paintings (0171-887 8000) . . **V & A**: Design Now: San Lorenzo Silversmiths (0171-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **B-ROAD MOVIE**: Maggie Fox and Sue Ryding, the inventive comic duo of Lip Service, bring their latest multi-media farce here for just three performances.
Hackney Empire, 291 Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Tonight-Sat, 8pm

◪ **EDDIE IZZARD**: The quirky comedian returns for another season of surreal musings on life.
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Ave, WC2 (0171-379 5399). Tue-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7.30pm 🅂

☐ **FUNNY MONEY**: Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce; Charlie Drake excellent as a sorely-tried taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. 🅂

■ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**: Fine performances by Zoë Wanamaker, Claire Skinner, Ben Chaplin and Mark Dexter in Tennessee Williams's elegiac play of false hopes and shattered dreams.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, Sat and Sun, 4pm. 🅂

☐ **THE HOTHOUSE**: Assailed by crises in a mysterious detention centre. Harold Pinter is marvellously funny, heading the strong cast in his own, long-buried play. With Tony Haygarth, Celia Imrie and John Shrapnel.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

◪ **THE MARRIAGE OF MR MISSISSIPPI.** Friedrich Dürrenmatt's macabre and bizarre 1951 play where four men, of various political convictions, profess love for the same woman.
New End, Hampstead, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Opens tonight, 8pm. Then Tue-Sun, 8pm; mat Sun, 4pm. 🅂

☐ **THE MASTER BUILDER**: Alan Bates, Gemma Jones and new young actress-to-watch Victoria Hamilton, in Ibsen's male menopause drama. Peter Hall's rich yet lucid revival.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm 🅂

☐ **SIXTH BRITISH FESTIVAL OF VISUAL THEATRE**: Astonishingly diverse body of work, British and foreign: drama, cabaret, puppet theatre, by companies performing for three days at most.
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Until Oct 29 🅂

◪ **THE STEWARD OF CHRISTENDOM**: Final week of performances for Sebastian Barry's fine and moving memory-play. Donald McCann outstanding as the ex-chief of Dublin's police in the last years of British rule. Possibly the best play of 1995.
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm.

◪ **THREE TALL WOMEN**: Maggie Smith, Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

☐ **WHAT A SHOW!**: Musical spectacular revolving around Tommy Steele, who sings, dances, grins and remembers the old days.
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (0171-8393 5987). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . ☐ **Dead Guilty**: Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . ☐ **Don't Dress for Dinner**: Duchess (0171-494 5070) . . ☐ **Fame: The Musical**: Cambridge (0171-494 5083) . . . ☐ **The Importance of Being Earnest**: Old Vic SE1 (0171-928 7616) . . ◪ **Indian Ink**: Aldwych (0171-416 6003) . . ◪ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) ◪ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . ◪ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE NEON BIBLE (15): A sensitive boy's childhood in the American Bible Belt. Disappointing film from director Terence Davies, with Gena Rowlands and Jacqui Tierney.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691)

NIGHTWATCH (18): Morgue nightwatchman gets the jitters. Danish thriller with a few classy trimmings. Director, Ole Bornedal.
Metro (0171-437 0757) **MGM Piccadilly** (0171-437 3561)

SPECIES (18): Mutant heroine causes havoc in LA. Nasty, flat-footed creature feature, with Natasha Henstridge and Ben Kingsley.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

THE WILD BUNCH (18): William Holden's outlaws have one last, bloody fling. Sam Peckinpah's classic Western of 1969, released with ten minutes restored.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

CURRENT

◆ **APOLLO 13** (PG): The near-fatal moon mission of 1970. Splendid images, but conventional drama. With Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon and Ed Harris.
Barbican 🅂 (0171-638 8891) **Empire** 🅂 (0990 888990) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Notting Hill Coronet** 🅂 (0171-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **ASSASSINS** (15): Cat and mouse games between two contract killers. Reasonable action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas and Julianne Moore. Director, Richard Donner.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332) **Warner** 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

COLD FEVER (15): A Japanese visitor journeys across Iceland: wonderful, droll film from director Fridrik Thor Fridriksson, packed with stunning images.
MGM Haymarket (0171-839 1527) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

DOLORES CLAIBORNE (18): Powerful Stephen King adaptation, with Kathy Bates as the wife and mother twice accused of murder. With Jennifer Jason Leigh. Director, Taylor Hackford.
Warner 🅂 (0171-437 4343)

◆ **FORGET PARIS** (12): Can Billy Crystal and Debra Winger make their love affair stick? Do we care? A bumpy romantic comedy.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15): Ken Loach's powerful Spanish Civil War drama, with Ian Hart, Rosana Pastor.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** (0171-369 1722) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520)

◆ **THE NET** (12): New technology, but enjoyable old thrills, with Sandra Bullock as a computer expert in peril.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

◆ **POCAHONTAS** (U): Strangely dull slice of American history, a backward step for Disney cartoons after *Aladdin* and *The Lion King*. With the voices of Mel Gibson and Irene Bedard.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

WATERWORLD: Acquatic folly with spectacular action but not enough script. With Kevin Costner, Dennis Hopper and Jeanne Tripplehorn.
MGM Trocadero 🅂 (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234)

◆ **WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING** (PG): Sandra Bullock poses as the fiancée of a comatose hunk. Agreeable vehicle for a refreshing new star. With Bill Pullman and Peter Gallagher.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** 🅂 (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** 🅂 (0171-792 3332)

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■ MUSIC 1

Upbeat story: aspiring maestros from round the world battle it out at the Bernstein competition

■ MUSIC 2

True to his falsetto: top counter-tenor Michael Chance on ENO's new Purcell staging

THE TIMES

ARTS

■ DANCE

And all that jazz: Orphy Robinson supplies the music for Phoenix's new work at the Wells

■ TOMORROW

Alan Jackson on the mix of pop-star glamour and kitchen-sink realism that is Human League

Richard Morrison on the battle of the batons at the Bernstein conductors' competition in Jerusalem

And the winner is ... a clone

Find the new Leonard Bernstein! For this impossible mission we gathered in Jerusalem last week to watch a jury of 14 top orchestral musicians and music administrators evaluate 17 of the world's most promising young conductors. Each was given a 50-minute rehearsal to rant, rave, plead and emote in front of the long-suffering Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

This was the First Leonard Bernstein Jerusalem International Conducting Competition, a title which itself might win a prize for reducing unemployment among adjectives. Held in a city that Bernstein loved perhaps more than any other, the competition was backed by many of the great musical ensembles closely associated with him (including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna, New York and Israel Philharmonics and the Concertgebouw Orchestra) as well as the maestro's record companies.

Each sponsoring organisation pledged to give work to the winner, as well as to any other conductors that caught the eye. And the promise of dates with such lustrous bands as the Vienna Phil, rather than the cash prize of $25,000, is probably what attracted such a high level of entrant. The irony, perhaps, is that Bernstein himself never entered any sort of competition. He never needed to; his was the classic "lucky break" (stepping in to conduct a live broadcast of a New York concert when Bruno Walter fell ill), and it was seized with such dazzling flair that his career was instantly assured.

What did last week's event say about the capabilities of present-day young conductors? The news was good and bad. Most of the 17 finalists (whittled down from 233 applicants from more than 40 countries) are already conducting their own orchestras, or holding assistant-conductor posts with some of the biggest American orchestras, and they could boast terrific technique: confident, precise and clear, even under pressure. And the proceedings were pressurised, for the jury — rather unusually — sat right behind the orchestra, glaring menacingly at the contestants.

But then, if young conductors crumble under this sort of pressure, they are not going to be much good in front of a truculent British orchestra on a wet Monday morning in Henry Wood Hall. Competitions are artificial, certainly, but that very artificiality tends to exaggerate flaws in personality and technique. "I remember the first conducting competition I ever watched," said Humphrey Burton, Bernstein's biographer. "The jury consisted of Klemperer, Giulini, Boult and Walter Legge. One contestant was so traumatised that he never conducted again."

If technique was impressively displayed last week, however, the young conductors were far less good at conveying their own personalities or investing their interpretations with character. When they stopped the music, it was mostly to fuss over detail, rarely to impose some Big Idea. And few could command a really telling verbal metaphor to infuse the players' imagination. "Fifty minutes is a long time to rehearse if you have nothing to say about a piece," one judge observed.

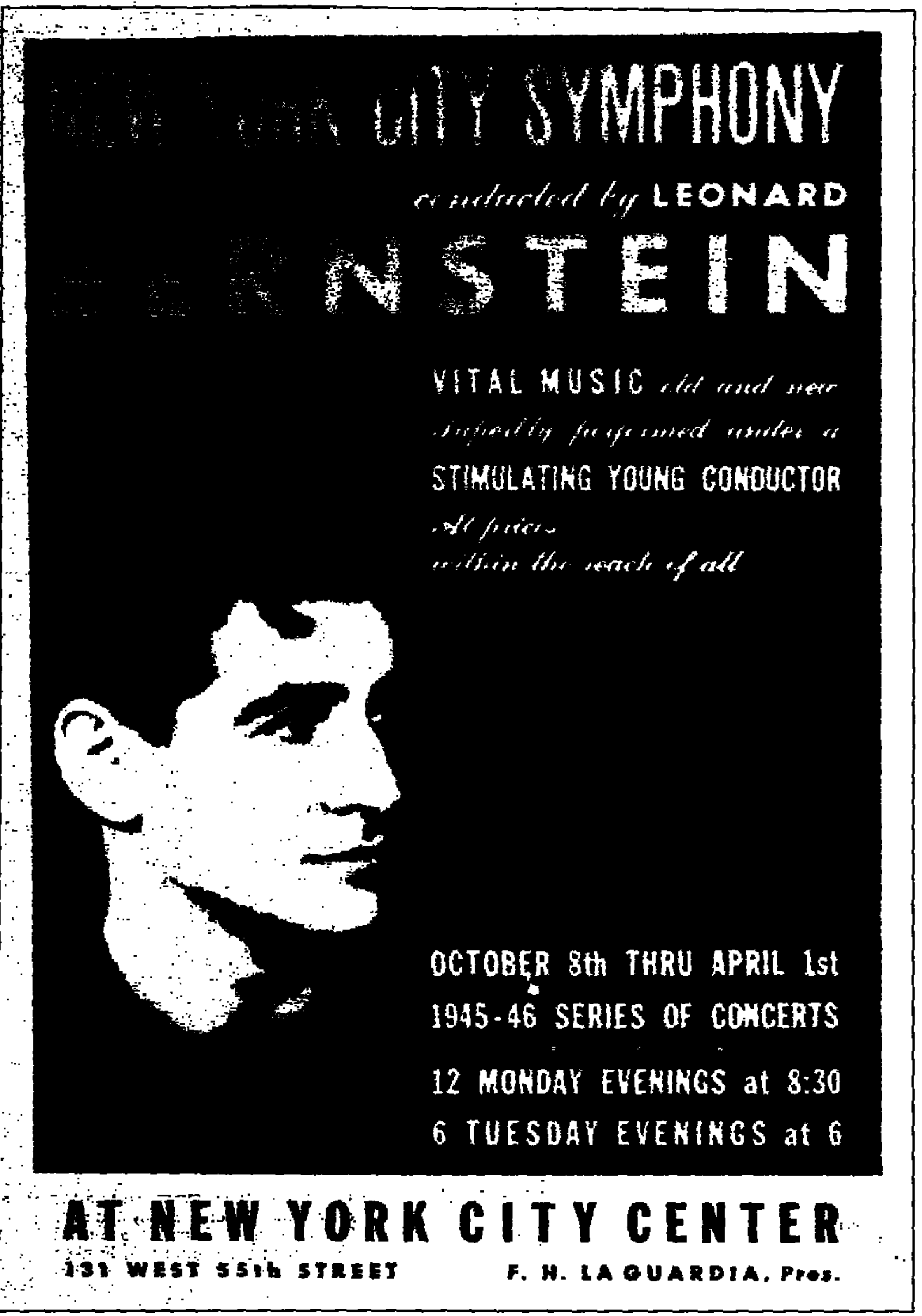
Yet among the six conductors who made it to the last round — where each rehearsed and performed a work revealed to them only on the previous night — there was real talent. The Russian, Andrey Boreyko, who has been chief conductor of the Poznan Philharmonic in Poland for three years, did detailed work on Beethoven's *Eroica*, but then started to bully the players unpleasantly, shouting "boring, boring" at the violins (which it was, actually), and then screaming "more" at the climaxes. It reminded me of Beecham's famous exhortation to the BBC Symphony Orchestra in a live broadcast of Sibelius's Second Symphony: "play, you buggers". But Beecham, who was rich enough to buy the orchestra and probably the BBC as well, is hardly a useful role-model for a young conductor today.

In comical contrast was the doll-like Shuang Guo from China. She moved her arms beautifully, she looked charming, and she was clearly well-schooled. A Western orchestra with an eye for box-office glamour should snap her up. But she had nothing striking to say about Mozart. More interesting was a Lebanese American, George Pehlivanian, who tried to turn the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra into a stylish Haydn ensemble in 60 minutes; he failed honourably, but he is a musician to watch.

It was the English conductor David Wroe, however, who really set the competition alight with his charmingly idiosyncratic performance of Bernstein's Divertimento, and his disarmingly witty rehearsal manner. Who is David Wroe? You might well ask, since this Doncaster-born lad has been shamefully neglected by the orchestras and opera companies of his own country, and has made his career almost entirely in Midwest America. That must change. He deserved to win but did not, presumably because he was too nice to the players.

Which left two other Far Eastern finalists. The Taiwanese conductor Wen-pin Chien, fast-rising through the ranks of German opera houses, is a competent professional, though his overblown performance of Shostakovich's Fifth Symphony was flattered by its runner-up ranking. Even more surprising, to my ears, was the choice of the Japanese conductor Yutaka Sado as the winner. He made a Schumann symphony sound as bombastic as a Sousa march, and exhibited all the Bernstein mannerisms (he was one of Bernstein's favourite pupils) but little of Bernstein's innate musicality. Also, he grunted loudly as he conducted: a Monica Seles of the podium.

Still, half the fun of a competition lies in disagreeing with the jury. Sado is probably on the verge of a massive career: he certainly has the full repertoire of melodramatic gestures at his disposal. But the grunting must stop.



Youthful promise: Leonard Bernstein seized his lucky break to become an unstoppable young star

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

From Pastoral to pyrotechnics

CBSO / Rattle
Symphony Hall, Birmingham

HAVING said that he was not sure about presenting Beethoven's Sixth and Seventh Symphonies in the same concert — both second-half items in his opinion — Sir Simon Rattle went on to demonstrate what congenial programme companions they can be.

He did, however, take risks. There was little danger in the *Pastoral* Symphony, expansive and unhurried though the interpretation was. In the third programme in the Beethoven cycle they are giving in Birmingham, London and Frankfurt, Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra are thoroughly at ease with the stylistic requirements and unconcerned by all but a few of the technical problems involved.

The radiance in the strings, the purity of the wind sound, the naturalness of the phrasing — the actual playing was itself attractive enough to sustain interest in an interpretation which, though it undervalued neither the harmonic inspirations in the slow movement nor the dramatic intervention of the storm, could only momentarily be jolted out of its basically leisurely preoccupations.

The risks were in the Seventh Symphony after the interval. For once, with quality of sound less and less of a priority as the performance went on, the decision to open the doors to the reverberation chambers in Symphony Hall made complete sense: the superficial textural confusion in the finale was obviously a deliberate element in an interpretation where an extreme of pressure was to be applied to celebrating the vertiginous progress of the work and where all caution was eventually abandoned. It was one of those performances which, as the reaction of the cheering audience afterwards confirmed, cut right through concert-hall convention to a basic instinct for a cumulatively rhythmic momentum.

GERALD LARNER

Grisly bears

Moscow CO / Orbelian
Queen Elizabeth Hall

COMPARED with its younger compatriots, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, formed in 1956, has a curiously old-world way about it. The players creep reluctantly on to the platform, take unsmiling bows, and offer a programme of unremitting austerity.

Perhaps they were merely dispirited by the chemistry of a sparse programme on a meagre audience. Whatever the case, their playing, under the discreet direction of Constantine Orbelian, was stern and undemonstrative.

At times this was refreshing in its grave honesty; at times it verged on the drab. Their founder-conductor, Rudolf Barshai, had arranged five of Prokofiev's piano miniatures, *Visions fugitives*, and the orchestra's fine individual discipline and corporate listening skills re-created to a nicety the sad shudder of a waltz, the brittle verticals of ferocity, and the mordant motifs of the ridiculous.

In Barshai's famous arrangement of Shostakovich's Eighth Quartet the composer's motto theme rose darkly *de profundis*, creeping through each voice with a shiver at its heart. When the theme is tautened and accelerated into anxiety, the strings carefully avoided any brightening of tone: when the motto is transformed into a sinister *Dies Irae*, it was all the more telling in its numb understatement.

This sense of stern discipline and a determined rejection of attention-seeking carried over into Tchaikovsky's more spirited and flamboyant *Souvenir de Florence*. Italy seemed little more than a distant mirage: this was the voice of Mother Russia, dutiful in counterpoint, loyal and unanimous in chorus, soulful in song.

The tiny, tick-tocking Haydn *Serenade*, which they played as an encore, was Haydn as Buster Keaton — and the players took a silent, wry farewell.

HILARY FINCH

Michael Chance is giving *The Fairy Queen* a new old voice, says **John Allison**

Purcell under the counter

Those who go down to the Coliseum tonight are in for a big surprise, at least those who know their *Fairy Queen*. Purcell's "semi-opera", based (rather loosely) on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, has been staged in countless different ways. But for his first return to English National Opera in almost two years the company's former director of productions, David Pountney, has devised a new scenario which includes characters with such un-Shakespearian names as Janet, Caroline and Dick.

The last of these is one of six archetypal mortals who journey through the fairy realm, and he will be sung by one of the world's leading counter-tenors, Michael Chance. With several performances and recordings of *The Fairy Queen* to his credit, Chance is enthusiastic about Pountney's approach. "The 'new' plot echoes *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, but is transferred onto Purcell's music without any dialogue at all. Since the piece works so well in concert form, I think this is a wise decision. It hangs together beautifully, and makes a much more palatable evening."

In ENO's new version, the counter-tenor does not get all that many arias. "The distribution of parts between the high tenor and low alto is always a problem area in music of this period, and particularly in this piece. Here I'm part of an ensemble. But I love the music I sing: the energy and inventiveness in this piece are staggering." Chance is glad to have sung a lot of Purcell in this tercentenary year, but cautions: "Associating the counter-tenor voice with Purcell is tricky. It was always thought he sang counter-tenor, but recent scholarship has suggested that descriptions of a Chapel Royal service in which he took part had been misread. Very few of his songs have the right counter-tenor range."

Was Purcell "The Greatest Genius We Ever Had"? "I think it's all right to hype him up in his year, and in the pantheon of great English composers he is certainly up there with Elgar and Britten. His range is a mark of his genius; he's very similar in that respect to Britten." Indeed, it was with Britten's music that the fortunes of the modern counter-tenor changed. The operatic roles of Oberon (*Midsummer Night's Dream*) and Apollo (*Death in Venice*) were a breakthrough.

"Until then the repertory was much more limited. But much as I enjoy singing Oberon, I think we've come a long way since then in terms of ideas about the counter-tenor voice. Oberon sings beautiful music, but it is all slow, spooky and disembodied, and has led people to have just one idea of what the counter-tenor is. Now, especially with the Germans, Americans and Australians, many counter-tenors have broken that mould. Whereas English singers have tended to come from an ecclesiastical tradition, others might have discovered their talent only in a high-voiced party turn. I've tried to bridge that gap."

Chance himself has played no small part in "liberating" the voice. Several composers have been inspired by the unusual purity and sweetness of his tone to write new music. He has created roles in Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong* ("working with Birtwistle seriously challenges your orthodox view of the world") and Judith Weir's *A Night at the Chinese Opera* ("one of the most enjoyable things I've done").

Away from the operatic stage, the counter-tenor voice has suddenly gained popularity, as such phenomena as the recently-recorded *Three Counter-Tenors* spoof and a new movie about the celebrated 18th-century castrato Farinelli suggest. "I think it's wonderful that this sort of voice has become fashionable. Some may see us as being grotesques, but for many, especially women, the combination of the male appearance and a more feminine sound is very attractive. There is a caressing way in which the counter-tenor phrases. I don't think it has got anything to do with campness, or is a sexual thing."

For Chance, singing so high comes naturally. "When my voice began to break, I dropped down to the alto line in the school choir and stayed there without thinking about it. I've hardly ever sung at 'normal' baritone pitch, not even in the shower — it uses different muscles." From school Chance went as a choral scholar to King's College, Cambridge, where he read English but found enough time to work in the straight theatre and in opera-society productions.

"I've always loved theatre, and one of the reasons I enjoy doing opera so much is that in this country we've got so many imaginative minds at work on the lyric stage, not least in the Baroque repertory. Fortunately, we've got past presenting Handel as oratorio in drag. His music is strong enough to take most things, and I think Purcell's is, too. Having seen a lot of Pountney shows, I'm enjoying working with him. This *Fairy Queen* is visually interesting. The audience will be constantly entertained, if not occasionally baffled."

● *The Fairy Queen opens at the London Coliseum (0171-632 8300) tonight*

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Chance: "This sort of voice has become fashionable"

Bold move trips up on the steps

DANCE

Phoenix
Sadler's Wells

In one of the most ambitious undertakings in its 14-year history, Phoenix Dance Company has teamed up with the British jazzman Orphy Robinson for the big new work of its 1995-96 season. Robinson has composed the music for *Movements in 8*; his band and vocalists share the stage with the dancers — the first time the Leeds-based company has performed with live music and singers. The work highlights the change in the company's status, from a regional all-male fringe outfit in its early incarnation to the viable national contemporary dance company it has become today.

Whether *Movements in 8* bears equal significance in its own right is another question. Robinson has written a freeform jazz-funk suite that takes inspiration from African rhythms but is infused with a wide range of musical flavourings. The choreography that partners it is the result of a collaboration between Phoenix's artistic director, Maggie Morris, and her assistant, Gary Lambert. In this case, two heads are not better than one. *Movements in 8* meanders through varying moods, slides in and out of focus, the product of a seemingly wayward attention span.

Starting with a sequence that finds all of the dancers swaying in the kind of hypnotic self-absorption one would find at a drug-induced rave, the piece moves on through athletic tumbling and whizzing turns into a terrific display of individual virtuosity. With these daredevil solos the piece picks up pace and variety, so badly needed after the bland predictability of what has gone before: women pretending to be sexy, men playing aeroplanes, and everyone trying to prove they are "in the groove". This is not the fault of the dancers, I hasten to add, who give the work more commitment and personality than it gives them.

Philip Taylor's elliptical and dark *Haunted Passages*, set to Britten's *Lachrymae*, has been revived for Phoenix's current tour, and justifiably so. At the Wells, the taut performances of Pamela Johnson, Stephen Derrick and Ricky Holgate captured the intense mix of hope and desperation in the angular and spidery choreography.

But the unexpected surprise of the evening was Chantal Donaldson's *Never Still* (sponsored by the Halifax Building Society), which opens the triple bill. Donaldson is a Phoenix dancer; this is her second choreographic commission for the company. In *Never Still* the strange sound world of Hugues Le Bars sets her off on an energy-consuming exploration of human relationships. The six dancers spin and cartwheel their way through a range of interactions, from circumspection and watchfulness to sensual exhibitionism and sunny communal games. The movement has vivacity, velocity and a genuine group dynamic. An accomplished piece of work, indeed.

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A tale of two empires: how Constantinople fell after the Byzantine millennium, but revived in the Ottoman centuries

New Rome flourishes in old age

David Abulafia

BYZANTIUM
The Decline and Fall
By John Julius Norwich
Viking, £25

After its relocation to Constantinople, the lineal descendant of the Roman Empire founded by Augustus and baptised by Constantine lasted another 1123 years and 18 days, under persistent threat from barbarian neighbours. John Julius Norwich concludes his highly readable three-volume survey of Byzantium with its last four tumultuous centuries.

The question is not why this shrinking empire, torn apart at the centre by competing factions, finally fell to the Turks in 1453, but how it managed to last as long as it did. The answer lies in the persistence of the Byzantines' own belief in themselves, and their extraordinary ability to convince even their bitter enemies that the New Rome embodied in the Byzantine Empire was something awesome, a centre of Christian civilisation and of political authority which could impress even Muslim neighbours.

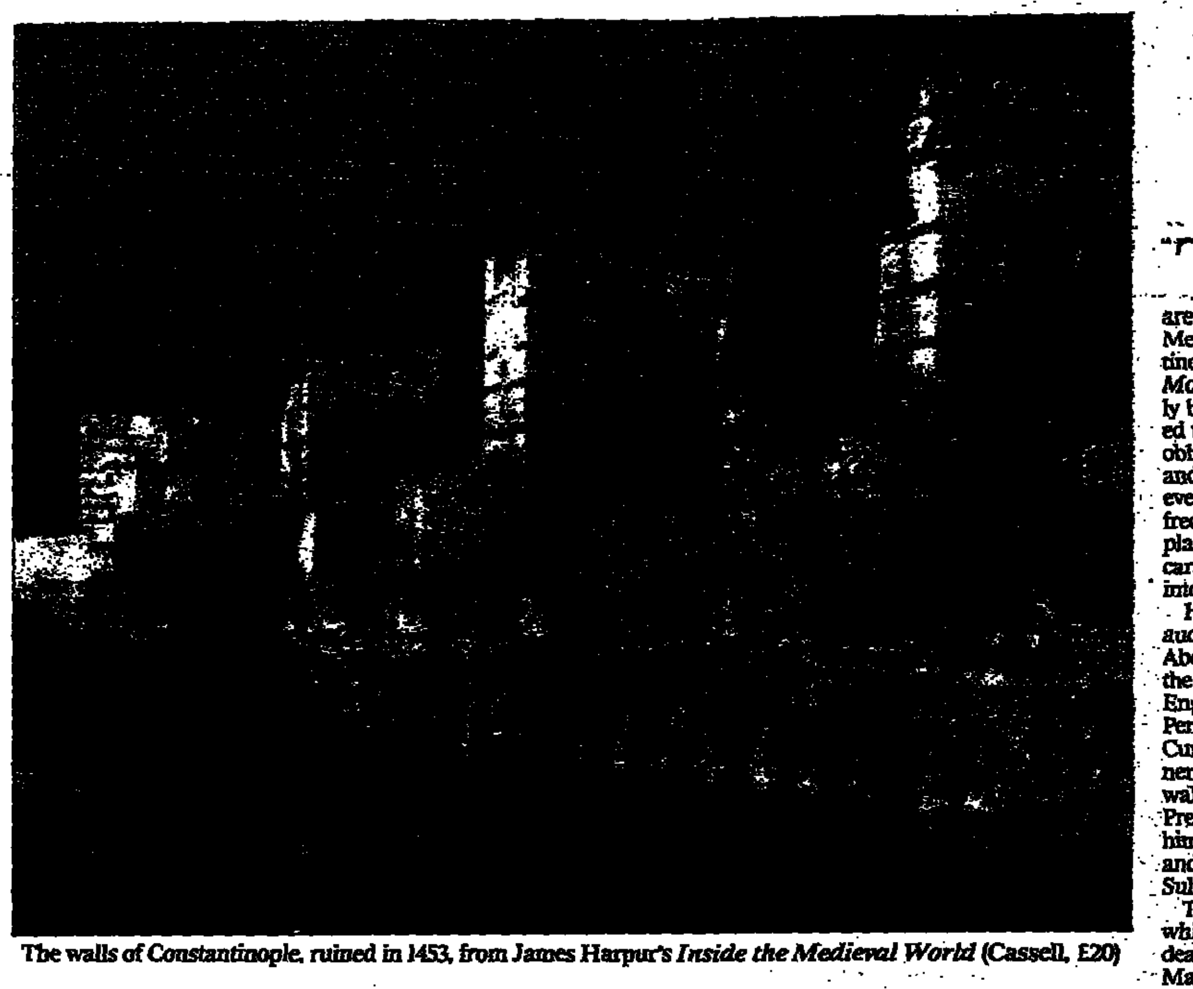
Confounded at the enormity of their own success, the Seljuk Turks failed to follow up their massive victory over the Byzantines at Manzikert in 1071. A century later they were still desperately trying to impress the Byzantines, offering a demonstration of the art of flying in the Hippodrome at Constantinople in a primitive (and lethal) prototype of the parachute that consisted of a coat with exceptionally large pockets.

Not for nothing did the Ottoman Sultan accept the Byzantine Emperor as his overlord only a few years after the Emperor had himself been obliged to pay tribute to the Turk. And not without reason did Mehmet II, conqueror of Constantinople, issue grandiloquent documents in Greek making plain that he was the new Roman Emperor; in 1453 the Roman Empire had not died, but had rather been fulfilled, with a new, Muslim destiny.

Westerners too were much in awe of Byzantine wealth and culture, and it was with the aim of bringing aid to a beleaguered Byzantium that they organised the First Crusade at the end of the 11th century. One of the leading Crusaders, the Norman Bohemond, had already made a thorough nuisance of himself by seizing much of Albania and apparently trying to win the throne of Constantinople for his father.

The relationship between Crusaders and Byzantines was thus from the start founded on mistrust, and the fears of the Byzantines were compounded by their open lack of sympathy for a holy war to recover Jerusalem. On the other hand, crusades were launched up to and beyond 1453 in the hope that western aid could flush Islam out of the Balkans and restore the shattered unity of the Church by drawing the schismatic Greeks back under papal authority.

The Byzantine Emperor had regarded himself as Vicar of Christ long before the papacy began to make use of the term, and the subtle concepts of Greek theology and philosophy could barely be translated from the refined prepositions of Greek into the concrete crudeness of Latin. Hence the Union of the Churches never proceeded much further than a few reluctant signatures by emperors and patriarchs, who well knew that the Byzantines themselves had no time for papal pretensions.



The walls of Constantinople, ruined in 1453, from James Harpur's *Inside the Medieval World* (Cassell, £20)

The problem only grew as the Greeks in the Peloponnese, Crete and many other islands experienced hamfisted Latin rule, after the unexpected conquest of Constantinople in 1204 at the hands of the navy of Venice and the army of the Fourth Crusade. Mutual contempt was matched by a general failure to mix in religion, social life and politics.

The imprint of these times can still be felt in the Balkans. The line dividing Croat from Serb has its remote origins in the frontier between Catholic and Orthodox Christianity. The presence of Bosnian and Albanian Muslims recalls the victory of the Ottomans in those regions and the eventual conversion to Islam that followed. The last centuries of the history of Byzantium have left an echo that can still be heard.

John Julius Norwich is a spirited, often thrilling, guide to the intricacies of Byzantine politics and warfare, who amply proves his point that Byzantium was no Balkan backwater even in its years of crisis. He is a little dated in his scholarship; but he is at his best weighing up the virtues and vices of Byzantine emperors, whose ready use of the bowstring to strangle their many rivals shows that the methods adopted by the Turkish sultans were not particularly original.

This is a history of emperors, not of the Byzantine world in all its ethnic and religious complexity. Surprisingly for an author who has elsewhere written so evocatively of the Byzantine mosaics of Sicily, he has very little to say about the buildings, frescoes and literary achievements of late Byzantium, a period marked by what Steven Runciman memorably called "the last Byzantine Renaissance". Most extraordinary of all was the philosopher Plethon, who toyed with the reinstatement of the Olympian gods. Byzantine intellectuals were at last becoming fully conscious of themselves as Greeks and were shaking off their fond myth that they alone were the true Romans (even if Latin had long since been abandoned). They began to celebrate their Greekness, cautiously at first, as they realised that the ancient empire they had once ruled — stretching from Ceuta in the west to the borders of Persia — now consisted solely of a vast but deserted capital, and some fragments of the Peloponnese around what is now the ghost city of Mistra. As Greeks, these intellectuals found a ready audience in Venice, Florence and Rome among those who had little interest in Byzantium, but a great deal of interest in the books Byzantium had preserved. To have remembered Homer over the millennia was no small achievement.

The Sultans' sublime port

Christopher Hawtree

CONSTANTINOPLE
City of the
World's Desire
1453-1924
By Philip Mansel
John Murray, £25

"Turkey is an extensive market which is opening when most others are closing," reported John Meade Falkner from Constantinople in 1904. The author of *Moonfleet* was a most unlikely battleship salesman. Dressed that blazing summer in the obligatory top-hat, frock-coat and black trousers, he was ever ready for meetings which, frequently altered, upset "the plans of weeks, and makes carefully planned estimates into waste paper".

He did, however, have an audience with the Sultan, Abdulhamid II — reputedly the first given to a commercial Englishman since Sir John Pender on telegraphs in 1893. Curiously, the gangling Falkner did not mention that, on walking backwards from the Presence with top-hat behind him, he knocked into a pillar and crushed the hat. Even the Sultan had to smirk.

This Hulotesque moment, which perhaps swung the deal, is unmentioned in Philip Mansel's elegant, 550-page history of Ottoman Constantinople (the name then most often used by Turks as well as Christians for the city that Ataturk officially renamed Istanbul). Certainly, Falkner was but one of millions who sweated it out in a city so central to politics, diplomacy and trade. Its inhabitants had always feared that there would be only 30 Sultans. This one was the 28th; with the exile of the 31st in 1924, the prophecy proved almost exact. But for five centuries, the city and the Ottoman Empire had benefited from the fact that, as Mansel puts it, "no great power could hope to conquer them without arousing the opposition of the others".

Mansel's book is as much an evocation of place as an account of such shifting allegiances. He does not shirk contemporary parallels and, in commenting upon "historians, contaminated by the plague of nationalism, that has raged since 1830", evidently relishes the city's cosmopolitanism. Time and again, tolerance — such as providing 16th-century Jews with a bolthole from Christendom — exists in proximity to brutality and backstabbing. With Gibbonian panache, he notes that on "the accession of Mehmed III in 1597, 19 of the new Sultan's brothers were taken out of the harem. They kissed the Sultan's hand, were circumcised, then strangled with a silken handkerchief." One 19th-century Sultan ordered the drowning of some 200 women from his predecessor's harem lest they sire a rival.

Along this civilised and gory way, one is reminded not only of such familiar characters as Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, but also that Pushkin's great-grandfather was an Ethiopian bought by the ambassador in the thriving slave market, and that the rich ate only the left leg of a chicken — a certain logic had it that the bird's habit of standing on the other one must make it tough.

From the rebellion of the Young Turks in 1908 onwards, the narrative is crowded with incident. In 1914 Turkey fragmented into rival nationalist groups: a tragedy, as Mansel convincingly argues, not only for the Ottoman Empire, which collapsed after defeat in 1918, but also for its capital.

Questions for the Father of the fatherless

Karen Armstrong on an elegant study of the Judaeo-Christian God as a literary character

GOD
A Biography
By Jack Miles
Simon & Schuster, £20

God is usually regarded by His adherents as a reality that is beyond time and change. He can, therefore, have no history and, unlike most other phenomena, cannot develop as He responds to events and imperatives in the mundane world. Most believing Jews and Christians claim that this immutable deity is only revealed in the pages of the Bible but in fact it derives from the works of Aristotle, whose remote God is entirely different from the passionate and vulnerable deity of the Hebrew scriptures.

In this elegant and entertaining biography of God, Jack Miles treats the Lord as though He were a literary character, whose development can be charted as the text unfolds. Although Miles is clearly conversant with modern biblical scholarship, he does not treat the various books of the Bible in the order in which they were written. Instead he considers the Bible as a completed text whose component parts were put together by the final editors in an order that is itself significant. He bases his argument on the Hebrew *Tanakh*, which is arranged differently from the Christian Old Testament.

Believers do not usually read the Bible in this way: they tend to dip in and out of it and assume that God always behaves consistently. But, as Miles skilfully shows, this is not the case. The Lord is a unique literary character. Unlike other deities in the ancient world, He has no genealogy, no past and no private life that we know of. Because He is the only God, He has no interaction with His peers. This means that He can only learn about Himself in His dealings with humanity, particularly with His chosen people.

Thus the God of Genesis often behaves like a sleepwalker, who has little understanding of his powers, does not really know what He wants and is in control neither of events nor of Himself. Thus He regrets creating the human race and destroys it in the Flood, saving only Noah and his family. In one version of this story, it is clear that He has no idea how things will turn out. Miles shows that the Lord God is a conflicted deity: He has absorbed other gods into His single personality whose characters and functions are often incompatible. He is a far cry from the calm, omnipotent and omniscient God of classical theism.

God achieves greater self-awareness in His dealings with Israel. He becomes a God of war when He has to save His people from slavery in Egypt. He develops a taste for morality, an interest that He certainly did not have in the earlier patriarchal period. King David evokes from Him the desire for paternity and He becomes a Father. Finally He learns how to love.

By following the biblical narrative in its finally edited form, Miles points out that it comes as a shock when Second Isaiah begins his prophecy by making the Lord say: "Comfort, comfort ye, my people!" Nothing in God's previous behaviour has prepared us for this tender benevolence. The Lord has been a killer, a legist and a moralist. He has been obsessed with human reproduction. But He has never before wanted to bring consolation to humanity.

There is a tendency to assume that the biblical God is consistently loving and mysterious. But like many conflicted, aggressive human beings, love does not come easily to the Lord God. Miles shows that the divine love is first evoked after His manifest failure with His people. Once again, the God of the first books of the Bible is confused and confusing but He is not unfathomable. It is only when He is on the threshold of love that the God of the Bible discovers what an extraordinary being He really is.

Finally and poignantly, God disappears from the human stage: there is much talk about God in the books of Nehemiah and Ezra but He Himself is strikingly absent. This remains true for many people in the modern world. Miles has not written a devotional book but an essentially literary study. Nevertheless, this biography does perform a valuable religious function by reminding us that we can never take the reality that we call "God" for granted nor assume that the Bible tells us exactly what He is or desires. In the *Tanakh*, the end is silence, an absence that we have to make sense of for ourselves.

Karen Armstrong is the author of A History of God.

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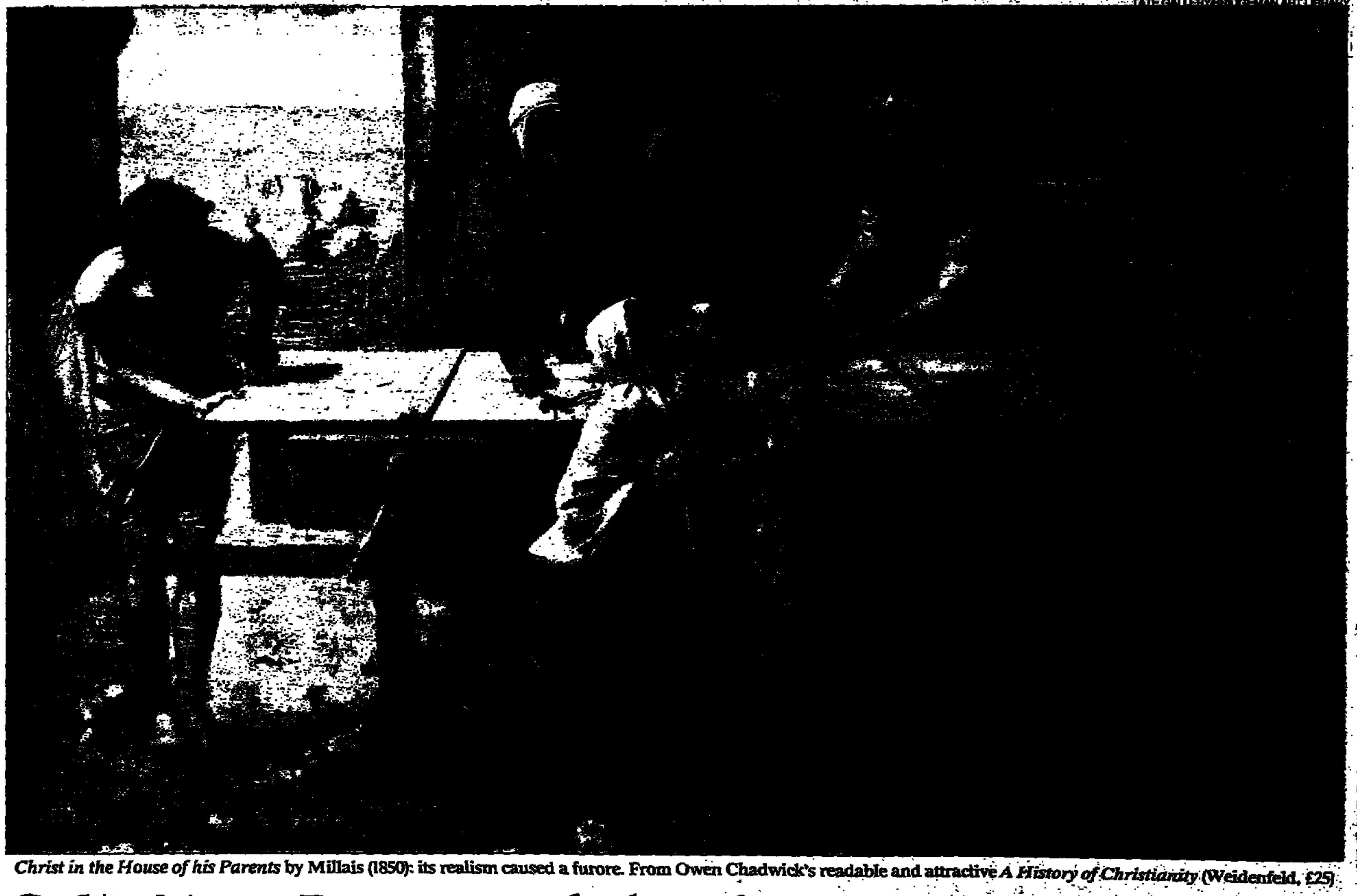

Christ in the House of his Parents by Millais (1850): its realism caused a furore. From Owen Chadwick's readable and attractive *A History of Christianity* (Weidenfeld, £25)

Jesus and the time tunnel

Matthew d'Ancona

GOSPEL TRUTH?
New Light on Jesus
and the Gospels
By Graham Stanton
HarperCollins, £14.99

On Christmas Eve last year, *The Times* reported a sensational claim by the German papyrologist Carsten Thiede that *three fragments of papyrus owned by* Magdalen College, Oxford, were from a mid-1st century text of St Matthew's Gospel. The scraps (which bear a handful of verses from Matthew 26) had been assumed to date from the 2nd century. But Thiede argued — on the basis of complex palaeographical comparison — that they had been written no *later than the destruction of the* Temple in AD 70, and probably years earlier. Here, apparently, was forensic evidence that the Gospels were written by contemporaries or near-contemporaries of Jesus. It could *have been read or handled by one of the "five hundred brothers and sisters" whom St Paul claims saw the* resurrected Christ.

Needless to say, the academic and popular debate ignited by this claim has been intense and sometimes *ferocious*. The stakes in New Testament research are high, *often vertiginously so. Leading the charge against* Thiede has been Graham Stanton, one of Britain's foremost biblical scholars. *Gospel Truth?* is a direct response to *The Times* article and a pre-emptive attack on the forthcoming book by Thiede and I.

It pains me to disagree with Professor Stanton, since (like so many others) I am intellectually in his debt. His earlier work, *The Gospels and Jesus*, remains the best *primer on* the complex relationship between history and Christian faith. Any layman entering this forbidding terrain for the first time is advised to read this minor masterpiece. In the much shorter *Gospel Truth?*, Stanton *returns to many of the themes which he addressed in the earlier book — the historic Jesus, the purpose of the* Gospels, their textual origins — and he does so lucidly and compellingly.

Yet the primary purpose of the book is essentially to refute Thiede's argument about the Magdalen papyrus *and in this respect it fails.* First, *Stanton* caricatures his *opponents'* position, perceiving in them a mindless literalism which is simply not there. No serious scholar would suggest that the Gospels are "absolutely reliable" as historical sources. Proposing an earlier date for St Matthew's Gospel is not the same as claiming that every detail in that text is accurate. The point of such reassessment is to judge how long the so-called "tunnel" of time between Jesus and the Gospel writers was.

Secondly, and most damagingly for his case, Stanton is no papyrologist. His attack on Thiede's work on the St Matthew fragments owes more to hunch than to first-hand knowledge of its scientific basis. He favours the "brilliant calculations" of another papyrologist who happens to disagree with Thiede, without explaining why. Consequently, he greatly underestimates the speed with which texts and writing styles were circulating in the Middle Eastern and Mediterranean world in the 1st *century* AD.

Above all, he assumes *that* the Magdalen papyrus *must* be late because it is from a 150-page codex (a primitive book) rather than a scroll. This, as any reader of Martial knows, is quite wrong. The codex was known and *in* use by the second half of the 1st century. There is absolutely no reason why the first generation of scribes to copy St Matthew's Gospel should not have done so using this particular form of literary reproduction. Indeed, it is probable that the *adoption* of the codex accompanied Christianity's break with the Jewish tradition between AD 60 and AD 70. Stanton's counter-claim that the fragments are "certainly not from the 1st century" crumbles before him.

Having declared my own interest and opinion, I welcome this book unreservedly. A lively debate on the redating of the New Testament has been urgently needed since John Robinson wrote his astonishingly prescient book on the subject in 1976. Scholars have tended to shy away from the question for fear of being labelled "*fundamentalists*". Now the Thiede *thesis* has opened the sluicegates. It seems that Stanton is already preparing for the next round of public argument in the spring. I look forward to that exchange with relish.

Matthew d'Ancona is the author, with Carsten Thiede, of The Jesus Papyrus, *to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson next April.*

[redacted]

Frances Fyfield on Rumpole's adventures in Strasbourg
Bond's begetter: Ian Fleming
Janet Ahlberg's last bow
Millar's thriller of the week
Gill Hornby on Freddy Raphael

فكر اسلامي

Wystan, the entirely beautiful

Peter Ackroyd on the chaotic life of a poet who eclipsed his peers but never took himself too seriously

He called himself "Mother" and gave homage only to "Miss God" and "Miss History", the two female deities with whom he felt most at home. He was a homosexual who firmly disapproved of homosexuality, and a lyric poet who once told a frustrated admirer: "If you want romance, f*** a journalist." He was dishevelled to the point of being almost dirty, a heavy drinker and a chain smoker. He was, in the language of his period, absolute bliss.

Certainly it was bliss to be born in the first decade of the 20th century, when anything and everything seemed about to happen. If Richard Davenport-Hines's latest biography is as much a history of ideas as of people, that is because it remains true to those decades of hope and despair which Auden commemorated in his occasionally didactic verse. Davenport-Hines denounces the usual biographical *mélange* of gossip, scandal and "sexual tale-telling". He is not one of those writers who rush into the bedroom, and the closet, at every opportunity; as a result his portrayal of Auden is sometimes a trifle dry but always alert and convincing.

Auden believed himself to have been an autistic child, immured in visions of ice and limestone, and he really first came to life at Oxford. He was hardly an undergraduate at all but, rather, a force of nature and/or culture. He had an extraordinary exuberance, described by Cecil Day-Lewis as "vitality" and by Stephen Spender as "overwhelming cleverness". When you combine these qualities with ambition, and a fair helping of luck, you have the makings of a great writer. It is often said that he looked old, even in middle-age, because he had burnt himself out; he had been fuelled for too long by red wine and benzedrine. But there was, at the beginning, an energy so bright that it eclipsed all of his contemporaries.

His contemporaries did not always enjoy the experience, of course, and there were occasions when his self-confidence lapsed into dogmatism and an almost wilful lack of interest in other people. When "Mother" pronounced (his own mother, by the way, was a singularly tough and snobbish old party), the children were obliged to listen. He never stopped entertaining opinions of assorted kinds; they were generally absurd and contradictory, but that did not matter. As Thekla Clark explains in one of the many astute observations within her charming memoir, he often said things because he liked the sound of them. He enjoyed creating sentences which, like poetry, admitted no response; he relished the air of authority, even when he had nothing whatever to say. The only problem with Davenport-Hines's biography, in fact, is that he is inclined to take Auden's beliefs too seriously. They are often not beliefs at all, but dramatic recitatives designed to convince himself as much as any audience.

But they have a larger context. It has been said that a genius is one who lives in symbolic relation to the age; there is no doubt that, in his successive espousals of communism, Freudianism and Christian existentialism, Auden gave voice to the most significant concerns of his century. His famous, and for a while notorious, removal to the United States could also be seen as an emblem of what he called "the following wind of history".

AUDEN
By Richard Davenport-Hines
Heinemann, £20
WYSTAN AND CHESTER
By Thekla Clark
Faber, £12.99
AS I WALKED OUT ONE EVENING
Songs, ballads, limericks and other light verse
Edited by Edward Mendelson
Faber, £12.99

Chester Kallman was, perhaps, the tiniest puff of it. They met soon after Auden's arrival in America, and Kallman rapidly became both muse and monster. If he had not existed, the combined resources of Ronald Firbank and Tennessee Williams could not have invented him. He first encountered Auden at a poetry reading in New York, and from the front row hissed "Miss *Mess*". Those were the days when it was a pleasure, rather than a painful duty, to be homosexual. Auden in turn opened the door upon Kallman on a subsequent visit, and announced that "It's the wrong blond".

Eventually their relationship turned into an *opera bouffe* of the most debilitating, if diverting, kind. "Auden at moments of stress had used book reviewing as a public commentary on their relationship," Davenport-Hines writes at one point, "and Kallman used his position in 1945-6 as operatic columnist of *Commonweal* to retaliate." The liberty of the press had not been abused so much since the days of William Randolph Hearst.

Auden often said that he always felt the youngest person in the room, even when he was in the company of teenagers, and indeed he often behaved as if he was. This is in part related to the infantilism which seems necessarily an aspect of the greatest poets, who do, at moments of crisis or high spirits, act like big, if not always beautiful, babies. But that condition (if one may use a medical word) is also an aspect of Auden's use of language. In some of his most wonderful poetry the syllables seem to issue from him without any private or self-conscious control — on those occasions the English tradition, with all the formality of its inheritance, speaks through him. That is why Edward Mendelson's collection of Auden's "light verse" is filled with ballads, nursery songs and lullabies, which could have been sung in 18th-century theatres or pleasure gardens.

There is a passage in *The Poet and The City*, quoted by Thekla Clark, where Auden writes of "the right to play" and "the right to frivolity". In fact, it is possible that his playfulness, and his sense of humour, were his most important gifts. He never took himself too seriously — he was far too great a writer to do that — and, as a result, his work can be very serious indeed. That is why it is no good lamenting the outward conditions of his life. However depressing or disordered they might seem, they were the necessary conditions for the expression of his genius. In this context it is worth noting Davenport-Hines's remark: "The private life of a poet is . . . the lesser part of his existence."

During one particularly uncomfortable and messy period a friend recalls Auden intoning "an utterly idiosyncratic, absurdly eccentric version of 'count your blessings'". He *had* counted them. They were his collected works.

Auden: red wine and benzedrine made him age prematurely, but he never lost his youthful zest

Dear price of desire

CHARLOTTE MOORE'S début is a cautionary tale about the crisis of a middle-class marriage. *Promises Past* catalogues the relationship of the Stanhopes, illustrating every painful cliché of the seven-year itch with a good eye for the petty misunderstandings and jealousies that can drag a marriage down.

Sarah and Adrian Stanhope leave London with their three small children for the country. They depart to a chorus of disapproval; they will be bored, they will become bumpkins. But Sarah and the children soon become absorbed into the life of a small market town, just as her husband becomes distanced from it by the necessity of commuting to London. Their interests begin to diverge and Adrian becomes an increasingly shadowy figure, as the drama is concentrated on the female triumvirate of Sarah and her two new friends.

Hilary, a single mother, sees herself as a free spirit. In fact she is an irritating character, but all the more convincing for that. She wafts about painting murals and rustling up elegant little meals, but her straightforward adolescent daughter, Elinor, thinks that it is disgusting that her mother has sex with her bearded lover. In contrast, Claudia, the unhappy wife of the local doctor, endures the pain of the childless woman who has finally given up hope of having her own.

Besides their blossoming friendship, the women are bound together by their relationship to the doctor, the vulpine Pierre Prescott. Sarah becomes increasingly attracted to him after he comes to the bedside of her sick child one night. She fuels her secret passion with vague suspicions of her own husband's infidelity, not realising that her thoughts may lead her down a well-trodden path to become another victim of a serial adulterer.

Sarah's fractious, too knowing mother-in-law and her glamorous sister are others in a gallery of familiar rogues, but Moore manages to sustain our interest in the family. The Aga-saga-like plot is slight and the pace is gentle; but the growing sense of crisis is well-managed and, more importantly, one cares about what happens to Sarah. In the end, both the rural idyll she has expected and the romantic dreams she fosters are called into question, and Sarah has to choose between her family and her fantasies.

Katherine Bergen

PROMISES PAST
By Charlotte Moore
Century, £16.99/£5.99

In a waste of shame, spare no expense

I knew Andrew Sullivan before he was a homosexual. Back in the early 1980s, when I was a young Tory MP, a friend promised to introduce me to a clever young man who had impressed (and intrigued) his peer group at Oxford. "He's one of those alluringly chaste people who probably don't sleep with anyone, of either sex," said my friend. "He's slightly fey, but not camp. He's a bit of a tease. You'll like him."

I did, very much, when we met at dinner. Andrew was charming, something of an intellectual, and obviously principled. He had light brown hair and a playful gaze, yet the kind of reticence that almost came across as reproof. He was slightly Jesuitical in argument, but oddly — seductively — insubstantial, a natural elusive. All of this I saw, but I completely missed the steel. Feeling faintly and indefinably intimidated by him, supposing a certain coldness, I never followed up the meeting.

Much happened to each of us before we met again, perhaps nearly a decade later. Never greatly tormented by moral doubts over my own sexuality, I had nevertheless sorted out the fiendish practical problem of what to do about it. Andrew (it seems from this book) debated with himself more than I ever did, remained a Catholic, yet decided to become openly gay. Remember how much braver this was in the 1980s than it all seems now. He had started writing: very well indeed.

Nervously my (deeply Tory) friend said: "Andrew's stayed in America. He's become editor of an independent, conservative magazine, *The New Republic*. His lifestyle has become rather . . . bold. I hear he's pumping iron." Sullivan and I met for lunch next time he was over here.

I don't know about the iron, but this time I could see the steel. We were (and are) no more than acquaintances, but I admired him terrifically. I would place Sullivan in my list of A Hundred Heroes, not so much for what he's done as for where he's done it from: and for two important reasons.

First, he never stood to gain from his honesty. Always ask that about someone before you call them brave. Plenty of us have nerve — throwing down a gauntlet for the small chance of a larger prize — but when somebody gambles only on surviving, and survival would have been more certain if they had chosen not to gamble, that is brave.

Second, Sullivan did not have the natural hinterland of a rebel. Many of his friends were Tories, many were moral conservatives, he was a Catholic. Launching yourself as a gay activist from a left-wing base, in front of a left-wing audience — as much as launching yourself as a reactionary hero from a conservative base — guarantees friendship and support and those life-saving "three cheers" from your mates. But the people Sullivan worked with, the audience he wrote for, and many of the friends of his youth, were not automatically well-disposed to the emerging Andrew. Nor were the gay Left, who despise him for not being one of them, and for ignoring their agenda. He was without a natural constituency. He has built one by the force of his own personality, his arguments, and his talent. He is a valiant man.

Sullivan: does it matter if homosexuality is involuntary?

Matthew Parris

VIRTUALLY NORMAL
By Andrew Sullivan
Picador, £14.99

And this is a valiant book. Its aim is to provide an argument on which centre, centre-left and centre-right might agree, for homosexual equality in law. I disagree with almost every word. But none who reads *Virtually Normal* will find it less than lucid, stimulating, penetrating and moving.

But Sullivan makes what are, in my submission, key errors of fact, of logic and of moral reasoning. Central to his argument is his contention that homosexuality is involuntary. First, I don't think that is necessarily true. Second, I don't see why it matters.

Gay men, he implies, have some kind of a window into the history of their own sexuality. And we remember that we could never have been anything but gay.

Look, I hate salami. It makes me retch. It always has. But I would not argue that humans are so constituted as to make some of us the inevitable enemies of salami. More likely we are "turned" at times and in realms which lie outside conscious memory; once turned, we diverge fast from any possibility of rejoining the path we have left; yet the moment of divergence may have been finely balanced. Dancing with women I have sometimes noticed an involuntary arousal; is something being suppressed? In intimate physical contact with other men, men who think they are completely heterosexual often experience the same. Is something being suppressed?

Sullivan thinks sexual orientation is fixed early, finally and unambiguously. For my part I believe that we are all placed somewhere on a scale between other-sex and same-sex attraction; and that it is human conditioning which "herds" us towards the most accessible pole. If it is true that many who call themselves bisexual are actually homosexual, it is equally true that many who call themselves heterosexual are actually bisexual.

If so, then homosexuality can indeed be promoted, just as heterosexuality so relentlessly is. Why do we gay men resist the thought so angrily? If we are easy with what we are, why is it important to us that "we couldn't help it"? Does a Jew, a Catholic or a red-head need to protest that the condition is involuntary? This is to cop out of the requirement to mount a principled defence of our moral right to embrace these conditions. "We can't help it" is a demeaning argument, intended to foil the finger-waggers.

But it doesn't, anyway. We can help our actions, if not our inclinations. I do not feel the need to settle the question whether a pederast can help feeling attracted to children, a kleptomaniac to shoplifting or a yob to assault, before I decide to outlaw the act — not the impulse.

Sullivan half-acknowledges this argument, but seems to suggest that sexuality so completely defines us that to stigmatise its expression must destroy the inner man. I don't agree. Priests manage. It is possible to stop a good deal of homosexuality by prohibition. You cannot stop it all, but there would be much more than there is if discouragement were lifted. Therefore to argue against prohibition I must assert that homosexuality is not undesirable, not wrong, not a pity, not an affliction. I must assert a moral equivalence between homosexuality and heterosexuality. I do.

That is what Andrew Sullivan is trying to avoid. Having so bravely taken on the moral Right, having wrenched himself away from Senator Pat Buchanan's anti-Sodom and anti-Gomorrah rhetoric and set out on an odyssey of his own, Sullivan now turns back for one last glance at the burning cities and tries, one last time, to form a bridge, frame an argument that his Church, and those he has defied, would understand. "I can't help it," he cries. "I'm *virtually* normal. I'm only a little bit queer." In saying this he wrecks the integrity of his case. We've both come a long way, Andrew. Don't stop here.

The Tories' toreador

Aristotle remarks, in his *Ethics*, that one cannot tell whether a life was a happy one until it has ended. Much the same is true in politics: the importance of a politician is something that cannot be judged until his or her political life is over.

The appearance of a biography even of a politician as talented as Michael Portillo is therefore distinctly premature, and Michael Gove's book (despite its manifest professionalism) bears all the marks of having been ripped untimely from the womb.

The real interest lies not in the book but in its tantalising sub-title: "The Future of the Right". Just what, if anything, *is* the "Right" of the Conservative Party? And does it *have* a future?

"Right" and "Left" are convenient labels, which help the lower sort of journalists to write articles without needing to engage in the uncomfortable activity of thinking. In this form of journo-speak, a Tory "right-winger" is someone who believes in: hanging, low taxes, large armies, standards in schools, British sovereignty, hunting, reduced social security payments, family values, reform of the health service, wider censorship, automobiles and a rag-bag of other items which offend the *bien pensants*.

Upon closer inspection, however, it becomes difficult to find many clear exemplars of this "type". Alan Clark — who ought to fit the bill, if anyone does — turns out to disapprove of hunting, hanging and automobiles, and to have relaxed attitudes on the family. A large number of those most concerned about British sovereignty (Tony Benn and Peter Shore among them) are sufficiently of the "Left" to be prominent members of the Labour Party. Kenneth Clarke and Chris Patten — both robustly in favour of greater European integration, and usually described as being on the Tory "Left" — have shown themselves over the years to be equally robust defenders of low taxes, standards in schools, family values and reform of the health service. It is all very confusing for those who want to divide politics and politicians into simple-minded archetypes of Right and Left.

Anyone seeking the truth rather than slogans needs some subtler distinctions. Among Conservatives, one can discern at a minimum: (1) the High Tories, lovers of ancient institutions and rural life, devoted to the Church of England with a nod to Catholicism, reluctantly accepting inevitable change; (2) the Patrician-paternalist one-nation Tories, trusting in the "educated classes" to act in an enlightened manner through noblesse oblige in the interests of the whole country, concerned for poverty and disliking flashy wealth, believing in geo-politics and displaying a preference for administrative standards rather than pure market solutions, as well as a relaxed attitude to social proprieties; (3) Reactionary Tories, much concerned with crime and punishment, mistrustful of foreigners, strong on immigration controls, advocating strict public and private morality; (4) the Free-Market Tories, wary of the State and of super-states, stressing individual liberties and individual responsibilities, competition and choice; and (5) the Salisbury-Thatcher Tories, combining attributes of the High Tories with attributes of the Free-Market Tories, believing that the surest foundations for the preservation of tradition and inheritance lie in institutions that enlarge personal choice and responsibility.

Oliver Letwin

MICHAEL PORTILLO
The Future of the Right
By Michael Gove
Fourth Estate, £18.99

The Conservative Party is a broad church of persons fitting more or less into one or other of these categories. Depending upon the particular issue in question, alliances will crystallise, occasionally appearing to create a clear divide between Right and Left. But these alliances are temporary and will dissolve as the occasion for them passes.

Against this background, the question of the future of the Tory Right is a non-question: there isn't one. And the speculation about whether Portillo will be the candidate of the Tory Right is idle: there won't be one. A far more pertinent question — but one which, alas, Gove does not even begin to discuss — is where, in the Tory jigsaw, Portillo fits and to which elements of the party he may ultimately appeal. While it now seems that he belongs in the Salisbury-Thatcher camp, we shall have to wait decades to find out the answer.

Dr Oliver Letwin was a member of Mrs Thatcher's Policy Unit, 1983-86. He is now a director of N.M. Rothschild.

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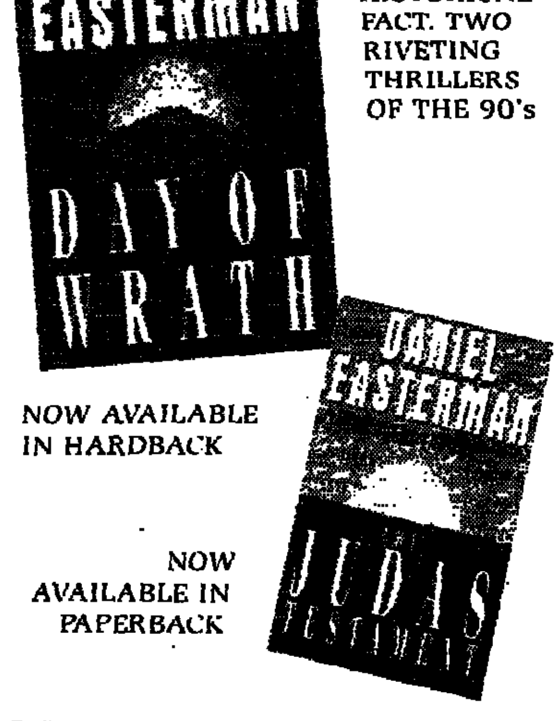


Sexist fate of women travellers

By Harvey Elliott

ALMOST half the women who travel on business complain that they have been "ignored, sexually harassed, treated rudely or patronised because of their sex", according to a survey by American Express Travel.

The vast majority of women — 83 per cent — complained that if they eat with a man in a restaurant the bill is still given to the man, even if they are paying, and 59 per cent complained that their hotel rooms lacked amenities such as irons or hair dryers.

Even though women will soon account for half the world's travellers, only 11 per cent say they are comfortable being alone in a hotel restaurant, 63 per cent hate drinking alone in a bar, and 44 per cent do not even feel comfortable in the hotel lounge.

American Express has produced a new 16-page guide, *Smart Travel*, written by Marion Cotter, offering advice to women on situations from how to find a "female-friendly" hotel, to choosing the best table in a restaurant.

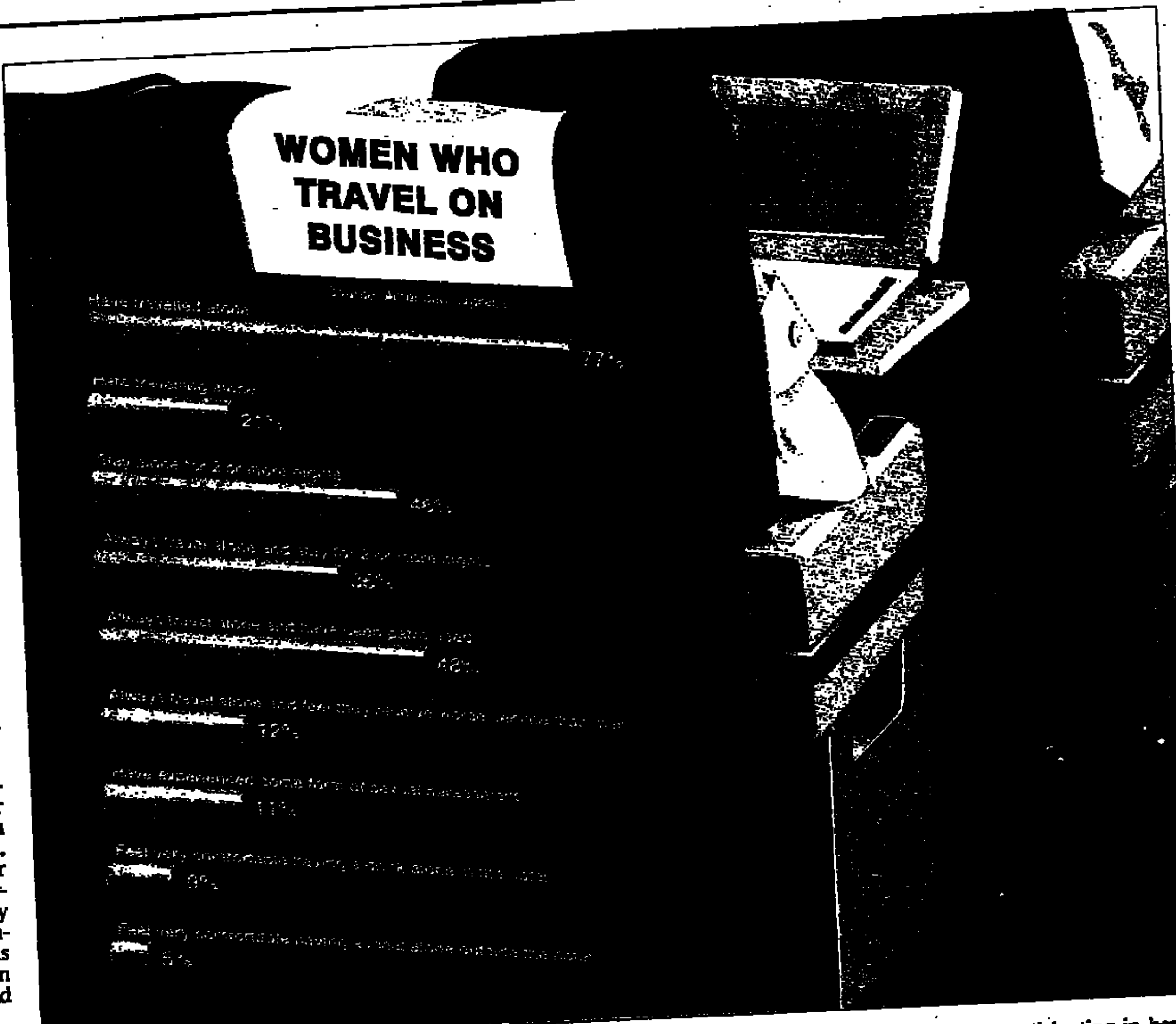
Another report shows that the number of business travellers continues to increase. The survey by the Travel Industry Association of America found that last year 38.4 million Americans took 220 million business trips, an 8.8 per cent increase in the number of people travelling and a 25 per cent increase in the number of trips taken since 1991, when a similar survey was conducted.

Lyndsey Whitehead, marketing research director for the publishers OAG, which commissioned the survey, said: "Contrary to popular belief, the business travel market has not been replaced by high technology and telecommunications. Instead, it is healthy and growing in size in terms of travellers, trips and frequency."

The survey shows that the average business traveller is a well-educated, professional married man with children. Men make up 62 per cent of all business travellers, and 38 per cent are female. The average age of a business traveller of either sex is 41, and 72 per cent are married.

The average length of a business trip is 3.6 nights, which was up from 3.2 nights in 1991. About 43 per cent of business trips in the United States are by air and 56 per cent by car.

The number of business travellers who now combine pleasure with work is also increasing fast; 7.5 million now admit to combining the two compared with only 6.5 million in 1991. This could partly be explained by the increase in the numbers of people participating in bonus programmes. The numbers using frequent-flyer deals are up by 33 per cent and 16 per cent more use frequent lodger programmes.



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☐ UNITED AIRLINES has three bonus offers for New York-bound business-class passengers who are members of, or who join, its Mileage Plus scheme. First, it has lowered the business-class fare by 20 per cent to £1,776 from £2,228. Secondly, the airline will provide free chauffeur-driven transfers both in London and New York. Thirdly, it will award 25,000 miles, which is enough for two return flights to Europe. Mileage Plus membership is free and can be arranged when booking. Details: 0181-990 9900.

☐ BRITISH MIDLAND's (BM) new services to Zurich and Prague (starting on October 29) will cut the cost of business travel. To Zurich, BM charges £310 for a three-day excursion, and £342 for a flexible return. The equivalent fares to Prague are £410 and £443 respectively. Details: 0345 554554.

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☐ BOOK a first or business-class ticket with Air New Zealand from next month onwards and the airline will send you a case of New Zealand wine. Details: 0181-741 2299.

☐ AIR UK will provide two flights for the price of one when passengers buy two large packs of Sainsbury's own-label cereals between now and December. Flights must be taken before June 30 next year.

☐ AVIS has inaugurated an "on-demand" chauffeur car service at Heathrow, the first such firm to do so. Prices start at £12.40 an hour plus £1.14 a mile. Typically, a trip to central London will cost £40. Details: 0171-581 1023.

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CAA in dock as regulator

When lawyers for British Airways and British Mediterranean clash across a Civil Aviation Authority "court" in the next few weeks, there will be more at stake than an apparently arcane dispute over route licences.

The judgment should indicate whether the CAA will, in future, have any role as a "regulator" of the aviation industry or whether it should stand aside and let market forces decide. The outcome could have a bearing on the way millions of airline passengers fly in the future — and at what price.

The case has an added piquancy in that the man garnering support on behalf of the little airline is David Burnside, now non-executive director of British Mediterranean, which has just one aeroplane and only 60 staff. Until two years ago, he was responsible for the public face of BA, with its fleet of 250 aeroplanes and staff of 50,000.

The Travel Business

◆

HARVEY ELLIOTT

The story is simple. As Lebanon emerged from years of internal warfare, a small group of entrepreneurs recognised that regular air services would be needed to help the country to become the European playground it once had been. So, with the help of City investors, they formed British Mediterranean Airways and applied for a licence.

The airline leased one Airbus A320 and hoped to be able to use it every day. But BA, which belatedly recognised the potential provided by the rapidly developing region, objected and, even though its claims for parity were rejected, it eventually managed to restrict British Mediterranean to five flights a week while BA was given the licence for the other two.

British Mediterranean claims that, at one time, it managed to build a 44 per cent share of the market, and opened "add-on" services to Amman and Damascus from Beirut.

Then, last week, BA made what British Mediterranean's chairman Lord Hesketh called its "unwarranted attack". BA had learnt that the Lebanese were prepared to offer up to three more services between Beirut and London — and it wanted them all, to match the five now flown by British Mediterranean.

BA claimed that British Mediterranean was no longer a new, struggling airline, but one which was about to expand with routes into Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and add at least one more aeroplane to its fleet. It was now big enough to face serious competition rather than be cosseted by the CAA, BA said.

But British Mediterranean feared that its investors could withdraw their backing because of the new challenge. And, it said, BA's action was designed to keep the airline off the Saudi Arabia route, which is one of the least competitive and therefore most profitable in the world.

So, does Clifford Paice, the man within the CAA who must make the final decision, let BA have any new services on the assumption that it is time that British Mediterranean faced equal competition? Does he agree that any new licences should go to British Mediterranean further to protect the fledgeling from the big boys? Or perhaps he simply lets the passengers and economics decide.

Watch this space.

Hotel chains head for world's trouble spots

By David Churchill

LEADING international hotel chains are stepping up their expansion into several of the world's danger spots. Inter-Continental Hotels this week announced plans to open a 270-room first-class hotel in Guatemala City, in Central America, by mid-1997, even though the Foreign Office is advising Britons to be "extremely vigilant" when visiting the city because of violent crime and terrorist attacks.

The hotel chain is also planning to open hotels over the next few years in Albania, Bulgaria and Lebanon, in addition to having recently taken over the management of three hotels in South Africa. All these countries are on the Foreign Office's advisory list of places where visiting Britons should take special care.

The Hyatt International chain is also developing into cities that the Foreign Office considers to be potentially dangerous. It recently opened a new hotel at Baku, capital of Azerbaijan, where it already reports "high occupancy levels" from business travellers lured by the opportunities from the country's substantial oil and gas resources.

Hilton International, owned by the Ladbroke Group, is planning to open properties in Bucharest and Jerusalem over the next 18 months. Both Romania and Israel are on the government advisory list. Ironically, the opening of a Hilton in Belfast, in January 1998, may prove to be one of the chain's safest new locations if the Northern Ireland peace process continues.

The reason for the expansion into international trouble spots is because the leading hotel chains all see these countries as having considerable potential for business travellers in the late 1990s and into the next century. "Executives are increasingly travelling to emerging markets, especially in Asia and Eastern Europe, and expect to find a top business hotel such as the Hyatt already there," says John Wallis, Hyatt's marketing vice-president.

Robert Collier, joint managing director of Inter-Continental, acknowledges that his hotel chain has a reputation for going into "difficult" destinations. Inter-Continental was created in 1946 to spearhead US business's expansion into South America along with its then parent company, Pan-Am (it is now owned by the Japanese Saison Group).

"Latin America remains a strategic area for us, particularly now that it has come through the period of hyper-inflation," he says. "There should be plenty of opportunities for us as other hotel groups have steered clear in recent times."

● Foreign Office advice is available on 0171-270 4129.

Flight tax warning for Clarke

By David Churchill

BRITAIN's tour operators yesterday told the Chancellor of the Exchequer that up to one million fewer package holidays will be sold next year if he decides to raise the air passenger duty in his November Budget.

The tour companies fear the Treasury is considering a 50 per cent increase in the tax, introduced in last year's Budget, from £10 to £15 for flights to outside the European Union and from £5 to £7 for flights within the EU.

Clarke: preparing Budget

They warned the Chancellor that if he puts the tax up it will damage the fragile profitability of the package tour industry. Already the leading publicly-quoted tour operators, Airtours and First Choice, have announced sharp profit reductions in the current year, with resultant job losses.

"For the general public there will be a further reduction in the number of holidays available," the Federation of Tour Operators (FTO) argued in a letter to the Chancellor. "The impact in 1996 . . . will be to deny some one million people a package holiday."

Martin Brackenbury, chairman of the FTO which accounts for over 90 per cent of the estimated 15 million package holidays sold each year, claimed that the combined level of tax on British travellers is already "the highest in the world, except for first-class travel from Lebanon".

He said that tour operators had been forced to absorb the tax this year because consumers had refused to pay higher prices for package holidays. "As a result approximately the same number of holidays were sold this summer as last and at similar prices, but for lower profits," he added.

Mr Brackenbury also pointed out that recent failures among tour operators had "all but depleted" the air travel trust fund which compensates travellers for lost holidays. "Customers could very soon be facing some form of additional levy to replenish it," he claimed.

The travel industry's opposition to any increase in the airport tax has been supported by Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman. "I strongly believe the travel industry has a powerful case against any rise," he said. "It is up to those affected as part of the multi-billion pound travel business to convince the Government that they simply cannot absorb such a tax or its impact on jobs and revenues."

Spain sparks passport chaos

HUNDREDS of British tourists are being turned back as they head for Spain because their passports are invalid.

Despite warnings that the one-year British Visitors Passport (BVP) would not be valid for entry to Spain after October 1, many travellers claimed to know nothing of the new rule until they were turned back at airline check-in desks or immigration control.

And only frantic action by British officials prevented the gradual phasing out of the £12 passport turning into chaos when over-enthusiastic officials from other European countries and airlines, which are supposed to accept the BVP until the end of the year, jumped the gun and refused entry to BVP holders.

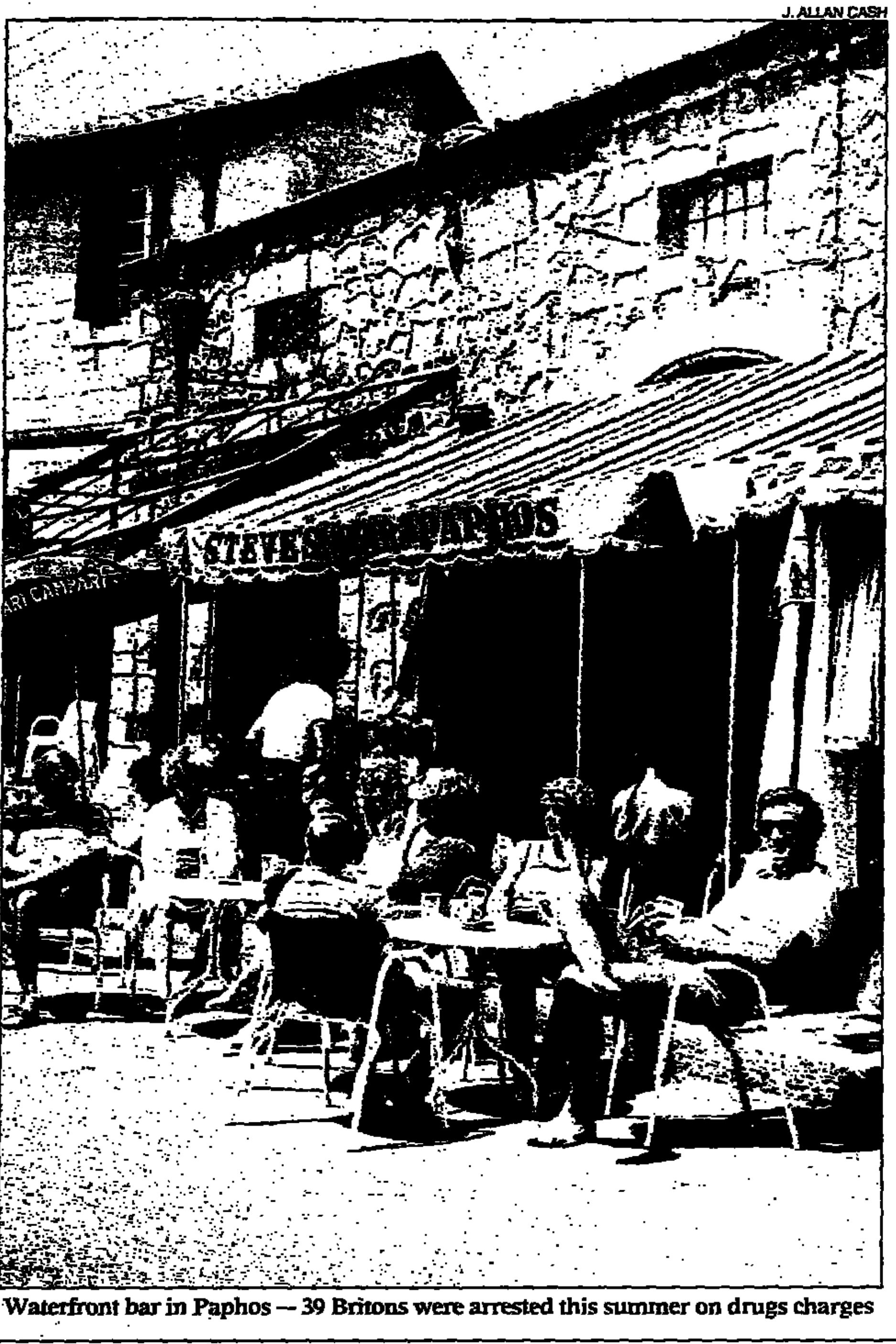
As reports flooded in that British passengers wanting to fly to France, Belgium, Turkey, Portugal and Greece were being refused entry, intergovernmental contact had to be made to get the message across that the passports are valid until December 31 for every country except Spain.

Spanish authorities argued that British visitors needed documentation that was valid for at least three months, and as the BVP was being abolished from January 1 it had ceased to be valid now.

Because airlines are responsible for ensuring that their passengers have the correct documentation, check-in staff from some airlines had to tell would-be passengers that they could not travel. Many immediately raced to the nearest passport agency where staff have been working overtime to produce full ten-year passports in hours.

More than a million BVPs a year were issued through Post Offices and even though customers are now being warned that they will not be valid anywhere after January, thousands are still being sold.

J. ALLAN CASH



Waterfront bar in Paphos — 39 Britons were arrested this summer on drugs charges

Cyprus in tourist drugs war

By Michael Theodoulou

POLICE chiefs in Cyprus, determined to crack down on a "mini crime wave from Britain", want signs displayed at British and other European airports warning tourists that they will receive long jail terms if caught with even tiny amounts of soft drugs for personal use. Another measure being considered is the inclusion of stark warnings on flight boarding cards.

Several Britons are currently languishing in Nicosia Central prison, serving between 45 and 50 days for possessing in some instances as little as two grammes of hashish, enough to roll three or four "joints".

Judges invariably tell the accused that penalties must be a deterrent to curtail the drugs problem and protect local youth from pernicious influences from abroad. Police claim many tourists are now smuggling in drugs to sell in discos as a way of financing their holidays.

"It has been noticed, with British tourists in particular, that when they are arrested in possession of drugs they claim they didn't know it was illegal," said the commander of the Cyprus Anti-Narcotics Squad, Nathaniel Papageorghiou.

British consular officials in Nicosia agree there is a need to let tourists know that while Cyprus appears to be an easy-going European-style holiday island, drugs are strictly taboo. Those caught using them — even in the privacy of their hotel rooms — are harshly punished. Someone caught passing a joint around to friends is classed as a "supplier" and receives a stiffer penalty. Prison sentences were rare until this summer when judges claimed that fines of up to £700 were not curbing the problem.

Even those who escape imprisonment with a fine have their holidays ruined. Many offenders are remanded in police cells for eight days and may miss their flight home. This can prove costly if they are package tourists who must buy a single ticket home on a scheduled flight

This summer 94 Britons were arrested in Cyprus, 39 of them for drugs-related offences. This was more than three times the number arrested in the same period last year.

"It's getting worse and worse," said Mr Papageorghiou. "The problem is mainly amphetamines, Ecstasy, speed and LSD — pills that are easy to use and easy to conceal."

Paris aims to be Europe's hub

By Harvey Elliott

TWO NEW runways are to be installed at Charles de Gaulle airport near Paris as a "stop-gap" until a completely new airport can be built near the city, the French Government announced last week.

The decision is a clear indication that the French are now determined that Paris should become the aviation hub of Europe, luring millions of airline passengers who now fly from outside Europe to Heathrow.

François Baroin, a French government official, said after a Cabinet meeting in Paris that a study would now be launched to choose a site for the new airport.

The Paris airport system — the second biggest in Europe and seventh largest in the world — will, M Baroin said, "seek to accentuate improvement of its capacity".

The two main Paris airports, Charles de Gaulle and Orly, together with Le Bourget, the private business airport, have a combined annual traffic of 51.5 million passengers and 522,000 aircraft movements a year. This compares with Heathrow, through which 53.4 million passengers and 417,000 aircraft pass.

A public inquiry into the plan to build a fifth terminal at Heathrow, now grinding its way through hundreds of witnesses, is likely to last at least two years.

Des Wilson, BAA's corporate affairs director, said: "The French decision proves that we are in a highly competitive international industry."

Sydney noise levy

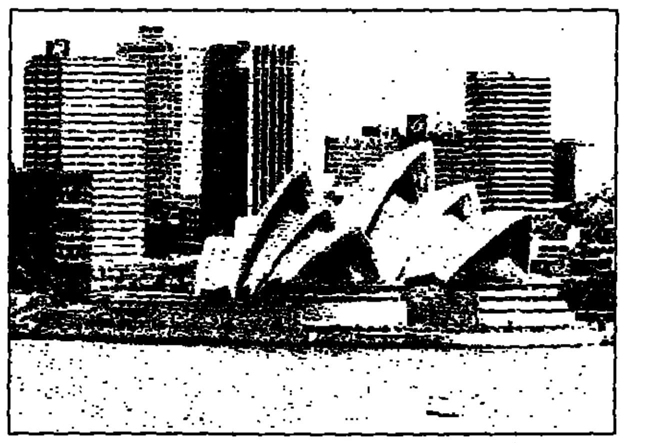
UK TRAVELLERS flying into Sydney airport by jet are paying more for their air tickets after the introduction of a "noise levy" by the Australian Government, *Helen Conway writes.*

Payment of the A$3.40 (about £1.60) tax is made when passengers pay for their airline ticket, either to the travel agent or the airline direct.

There are an estimated 15 million passengers flying into Sydney each year and the new tax is expected to raise $50 million in 12 months to pay for soundproofing 4,200 houses which are located under the flight path of the third runway at Sydney airport, which opened in the face of intense protest from local residents last year. The Government is also having to buy 113 houses which are badly affected by noise from the new runway.

Travellers leaving Australia already pay a A$27 departure tax, but this is the first arrivals tax. One domestic route is exempt from the new charge, however. Ansett Airlines is not imposing the tax on flights into Sydney from the Australian capital, Canberra, because its computer system cannot identify which of its 17 flights a day from Canberra are jets and which are propeller-driven.

A spokeswoman for Qantas said it was highly likely that they would follow the Ansett lead and not pass on the tax to passengers from Canberra, rather than be seen as uncompetitive on fares.



Air travellers to Sydney are paying to soundproof houses

Alton Towers to get hotel

BRITAIN'S most famous theme park, Alton Towers, is to follow in the footsteps of the Walt Disney empire and open its first hotel, *Rachael Jolley writes.*

Already 17 per cent of the park's three million annual visitors stay for more than one day. Alton Towers marketing manager Jill Britton said the Disney experience had made people think of theme park visits as short breaks, rather than one-day trips. Ms Britton said the hotel would encourage people who live more than a few hours' drive from the park to consider it as a place to visit.

Alton Towers will own and manage the £20 million hotel, which will have themed rooms including one with free chocolate and another decorated in Arabian Nights style. Guests will be able to walk from the hotel to nearby rides, giving them the advantage of beating the queues in the morning.

Britons are bravest

THE British are now rated the most determined, bravest business travellers in Europe. A Visa International survey claims that security risks would deter only 36 per cent of British business travellers, compared with 54 per cent of French, 51 per cent of Spanish and 61 per cent of Swedes.

IN BRIEFS

☐ BUSINESS travel agencies are to be asked to compete for one of Britain's biggest travel contracts: the £180 million a year spent by the Ministry of Defence on transporting its civilians, servicemen and freight around the world. Officials within the ministry now make their own arrangements, but a report by a leading travel consultancy will probably recommend that travel be put to tender.

☐ RICHARD BRANSON has launched Virgin Ultimate, marketing 14 of the most expensive holiday properties in the world. Venues in the brochure range from castles in Ireland and Scotland to manor houses, a private yacht and entire tropical islands.

☐ EXCALIBUR Airways (01332 810564) has a return flight to Nice for £99, departing Gatwick this Saturday and returning the following Friday. TravelMood (0171-258 1234) is offering a weekend shopping trip to New York on Virgin Atlantic for £299, including two nights' accommodation in Manhattan, from Heathrow each Friday from November 1 to December 14 and returning on Monday. Journey Latin America (0181-747 3108) is charging £303 return for a return flight from Heathrow via Amsterdam to Mexico City until October 31.

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How a passion for success is healing the scars of a crippling injury

Quiet comeback of rider with a new mountain to climb

David Powell on a champion collecting invalid benefit on his journey back to the top

He is back in the saddle after four days on a life-support machine, having suffered serious head injuries in a fall while racing: and his name is not Declan Murphy. Steve Douce, seven times the national cyclo-cross champion, remembers vividly the night in July he dreamt that he was dead. He nearly was.

Douce was racing his mountain bike at Catterick last May when he hit a rock in a stream and was catapulted off. Although he sustained no fracture to his head, he suffered bruising to the brain and underwent a five-hour operation to repair facial injuries.

Doctors could not reassure Sharon, his wife, that he would live. "At one stage I thought that was it," she said. "They said they did not know whether he would come round again and, if he did, that he could have brain damage. They said he may never walk or talk again; or be able to look after himself; or that he might not recognise anybody."

Although he has by no means made a full recovery — "I am a completely different person" — he returned quietly to competition in the same week that Murphy, the National Hunt jockey, made his much-publicised comeback 17 months after fracturing his skull. And, like Murphy, Douce won.

He was fortunate, he admitted, to triumph on his return, in a race at Dudley 11 days ago, but he was due some luck. As if his accident was not distressing enough for Douce and his family, he lost what little salaried sponsorship he had when his backer decided not to extend their three-month agreement. He then discovered that the private insurance scheme he had been paying into for years did not cover professional sportsmen. Douce had neglected to read the small print.

He won at Dudley after one of two riders in front of him suffered a puncture and the other appeared to misjudge the race, leaving Douce to pass him with a lap-and-a-half remaining. He had his second race back on Sunday, another low-key event, this time at Wolverhampton, and finished third: but only after being thrown from the saddle again. A pair wooden rails designed to slow down the riders was a technical challenge for the more accomplished competitors who, instead of getting off, would jump them.

"Your feet are fastened in the pedals so you can jump the whole bike up," Douce, the British No 1, said. "The sleepers are about a bike-and-a-half apart. I rode over the first one and went straight into the second. My reflexes are not as quick as they used to be." Fortunately, this time, he landed safely. Other things about Douce are not the same as before the accident.

> 'That's his life. I was never that naive to think he would stop'

"He is a changed person," according to his wife. "He is more short-tempered and more distant. I was warned that he could have a personality change, that it was the part of the brain that affects the personality, so I was prepared for it. He goes into a world of his own sometimes."

But his commitment to sport remains unaffected. "I have still got that," Douce said. And, though Sharon worries "every time he gets back on his bike", she has not put pressure on him to quit. After all, he has been cyclo-cross racing for 20 years and, at 31, his potential to stay at the top is limited to perhaps four more years. "That's his life," she said. "I was never that naive to think he would stop. I would never dream of trying to stop him. It just would not be on the agenda."

Now Douce is looking forward to his first race back in serious competition, in the first round of the National Trophy series at Greenwich on Sunday. A week later he returns to the World Cup, in Holland. Yet he remains on invalid benefit. The squeeze on sponsorship forced him to work as a part-time postman, his first job outside cycling, shortly before his accident. But he is not ready to try again.

"I want a job but I get very temperamental," Douce said. "I get really irritable. I can be argumentative, which I wasn't before. When I get tired I have problems speaking, I say the wrong words. I forget things. When your photographer was here, I was looking for my helmet in the back room and upstairs, but I had already put it in the car."

Team Ambrosia and Ewhurst Control are assisting Douce with bikes and expenses. "Not a full sponsorship but better than nothing," he said. "Cycling has gone downhill in this country. The sponsorship I had was not very good. That is why I had to supplement it with a job. All the savings I made over the years have gone."

Douce cannot recall his accident and tries to block the occurence from his mind. "I have only thought about it once and that was when that Italian rider [Fabio Casartelli] crashed and died from head injuries in the Tour de France. That night I dreamt I was dead and in a coffin."

Only a dream, but so nearly reality.

Steve Douce, back cycling competitively after suffering serious head injuries in May

Lamerton suffers head injuries

ANDREW LAMERTON, the Llanelli hooker, who won five Welsh rugby union caps in 1993, was seriously ill in hospital yesterday after suffering injuries in a car accident (David Hands writes). Lamerton, 25, was a member of the Wales A squad that will play the Fijians in Bridgend on Saturday and took part in a training session after no ill-effects were apparent after a hospital check-up on Monday, the day of the accident.

Lamerton suffered head injuries when his car was in collision with another vehicle as he reversed out of his home in Pontypridd; he was later taken ill at work and detained at Morriston Hospital in Swansea, which specialises in neurosurgery. It is understood there is no connection with the back injury that forced his temporary retirement from the game in 1994. A hospital spokesman described his condition yesterday as "serious".

FIJIANS (v Wales A at Bridgend, Saturday): P Rayasi, M Bari, S Sorovaki, L Little, P Bale, E Nauga, J McClennan, J Veitayaki (captain), E Batimala, E Natuivau, T Tamanivalu, E Katalau, I Tawake, W Masirewa, D Rouse.

Lewis heads south

BOXING: The heavyweight bout between Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe, of the United States, which has been scheduled for March, could be staged in South Africa. Bowe has been talking to South Africa promoters and has had positive reactions. Bowe, like Lennox, a former world champion, wants to back boxing in that country, particularly since he met Nelson Mandela, the President, two years ago. His representative, Alexis Denny, said: "We have been negotiating with the Lewis organisation since before his fight against Tommy Morrison last month."

The bout will be part of an effort by Bowe to help boxing in South Africa, with Rock Newman, his manager, inviting the South African welterweight champion, Mpush Makhambi, to appear on one of his shows in the United States.

Pakistan order inquiry

CRICKET: The Pakistan board has demanded an inquiry into their team's unceremonious exit from the Champions' Trophy in Sharjah this week amid reports of a player revolt against the captain, Ramiz Raja. Zulfiqar Ali Shah Bokhari, chairman of the board, said yesterday that he would be joined by the board's chief executive, Arif Abbasi, and treasurer, Salman Taseer, in the three-member committee meeting in Lahore on Saturday. The meeting precedes the selection of the Pakistan squad for the forthcoming tour of Australia the same day.

O'Sullivan slumps

SNOOKER: Ronnie O'Sullivan, the former United Kingdom champion, fell victim to the most surprising result of the season so far when he was beaten 5-2 by Michael Duffy, the world No 169 from Portadown, Northern Ireland, in the first round of the Skoda Grand Prix at Sunderland yesterday. O'Sullivan, who seems weighed down by continuing family problems and whose form has gradually disintegrated since he won the Benson & Hedges Masters title in February, attempted too many risky shots to ensure victory.

Results, page 43

Cleveland celebrate

BASEBALL: The Cleveland Indians have won their first American League pennant and World Series trip for 41 years with a 4-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners. The Indians won the best-of-seven American League championship series 4-2 and will face the National League champions, the Atlanta Braves, in the World Series, which begins on Saturday in Atlanta. Dennis Martinez, 40, was their matchwinner, allowing only four hits over seven innings. Cleveland have not won a championship since 1948.

De Rossi faces ban

RUGBY UNION: The Italy full back, Claudio De Rossi, faces a two-year ban after a second urine sample tested positive for banned steroids. De Rossi, the first Italian player to fail a drug test, was suspended indefinitely earlier this month after he showed positive at a training session. Sandro Di Santo, secretary of the Italian Federation, said: "The lad said he had merely taken some yeast." He added that it was up to a sporting judge to decide on the punishment, and went on: "But it looks like at least two years."

NBA orders limited retreat from decibel hell

Andrew Longmore reveals why American basketball has decided that the time is right to impose a degree of noise abatement

If you venture down to the London Docklands to watch the Houston Rockets over the next three days, the most essential accessory will not be a Hakeem Olajuwon vest or a fancy pair of sneakers, but a set of ear plugs. The National Basketball Association (NBA), who are promoting the McDonald's club championship with the customary banging of drums, are promising an "NBA-style" presentation at the London Arena over the next three days and, as anyone who has survived Indiana's pacer racer or the buzzing hornets at Charlotte will testify, that means loud.

At least it did until yesterday when the NBA, the inventors of rock 'n roll sport, called on their teams to cut the decibels for the coming season. "In some places, they were turning up the volume so high it bothered people on court and bothered people in the stands. It offends people's senses," Rod Thorn, the NBA's vice-president of operations, said.

Sound effects have always been such an integral part of the game, the basketball boom did not just describe its popularity, it was truly onomatopoeic. But in the last few years teams have used musical excess as an acceptable way of distracting opponents. Cartoon noises, rock anthems or in the case of the Indiana Pacers, a ferocious revving, and the Charlotte Hornets, an ear-splitting buzzing, have now become part of the repertoire. NBA games are a cross between a rock concert, a Baptist rally and children's theatre and the people love them. NBA games were 94 per cent sold out last season.

"If you talk to players and coaches, the majority would say they like what's being done," Thorn said. "If you talk to the marketing people, they'd say it's part of the show."

The loudest, brashest, presentation in the NBA could be found at the Orlando Arena where a spectacular dunk by Shaquille O'Neal was greeted by the voice of announcer, Paul Porter, amplified to 100 decibels with the help of a reverb machine. A jet aircraft produces 150 decibels, the Rolling Stones 90 to 100 at full volume. "We try to have the reverb going while the other team is taking the ball up the court," Porter said. "Visiting players say it is an obnoxious place to play, which means we must be doing something right."

The noise, though, caused a stir with Larry Brown, coach of the Indiana Pacers, who complained about the sound effects during the Eastern Conference finals. Orlando countered by pointing out that Indiana fans, who are also some of the noisiest in the business, waved pinwheels behind the basket at Market Arena when the Orlando players were taking a free throw. The NBA promised to look at the whole matter of distractions.

Among their recommendations for the new season, the NBA have asked teams to keep levels down to 85 decibels and only to use sound effects when the home team has the ball or during time-outs. Pre-recorded chants like "charge" or "defence" may be played when either side has the ball, but more impartially.

O'Neal: his scoring efforts get thunderous acclaim

Ray Lalonde, public relations manager for NBA in Europe, promises that the McDonald's championship, which for the first time features the NBA champions, will be staged in the best possible taste, with imaginative sound effects tailored for more sensitive English ears. "We have no intention of making it any louder or different than a normal game," he said. "The arena has been designed beautifully to look like a real NBA arena and the whole atmosphere will give everyone a true taste of the NBA."

Back in Orlando, Paul Porter is not very impressed by the idea of a new, quieter, NBA. He predicts that the volume will slowly creep up as the season wears on and be back to the old levels in time for the play-offs.

The three-day McDonald's championship, which begins today, promises to be more sedate as the Houston Rockets take on five other national champions, including the Sheffield Sharks. The final is on Saturday evening and the only disappointment is that Hakeem "the dream" Olajuwon, the seven-foot Nigerian-born centre who has led the Rockets to two consecutive NBA titles, is recovering from surgery and probably will not play. He would have been the biggest noise of all.

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JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton v Swanage and Herston; Whitchurch v Bemerton Heath.
FA YOUTH CUP: Second qualifying round: Eastleigh v Farnborough.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League Trophy (Under-16): Cleveland v West Yorkshire. Tour match: St Helens v Cologne (at Beechams Stadium, 2.0)

OTHER SPORT
BASKETBALL: McDonald's Championship (London Arena).
CRICKET: Indoor World Cup (Villa Park, Birmingham).
GOLF: Alfred Dunhill Cup (St Andrews).
ICE HOCKEY: British League: First division: Swindon v Medway (8.15)
SNOOKER: Grand Prix (Sunderland).
SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated): Premier League: Ipswich v Eastbourne; Middlesbrough v Reading.
TENNIS: International women's tournament (Brighton).

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England management looks beyond established squad

Robinson in line for England recall

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

DAMIAN Hopley, who spent four years on the fringe of international selection before winning his first England cap during the World Cup this year, and Andy Robinson, the last of whose seven caps was against Wales in 1989, may claim places in the England team to play South Africa next month.

Hopley, the Wasps centre who trained with the national squad at Marlow on Tuesday, is being considered as a right wing, while Robinson, the Bath flanker who has yet to be invited to a training evening, is said by the team management to be "at the forefront" of their thoughts.

England have a clear vacancy on the right wing, where neither Tony Underwood nor Ian Hunter is fit. Moreover, Hopley fits the criteria specified by Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's (RFU) technical director, after the World Cup when he inquired where England's answer to New Zealand's physically-powerful wings — John Kirwan, Va'aiga Tuigamala or Jonah Lomu — might be.

Robinson, 31, comes into contention after an outstanding season with Bath. "He's playing better than ever and is very keen to play for England," Jack Rowell, the team manager, said as he contemplated a squad of whom nine were limited in their activities by injury. Time is not on Jason Leonard's side — the Harlequins captain is unlikely to resume against Bath on Saturday — while Simon Shaw, the young Bristol lock, is more worried about a hip injury than the bruised hand that he picked up last weekend.

Hopley: fulfils criteria

However, the casualty list has enabled England to recognise the form of John Fowler, of Sale, Andy Mullins, of Harlequins, and Paul Grayson, of Northampton, all of whom trained at Marlow. "We will need our big team — by which I mean the first-choice team — against South Africa because any weaknesses will be ruthlessly exploited," Rowell said.

That same team will also be the first to receive player-contracts. The RFU will have finalised them by the end of this month. The union will not lose much time, either, in making them available as models to anxious first-division clubs who, in the words of Tony Hallett, are "living on the edge of a volcano" because they fear that their brightest prospects will be offered contracts elsewhere.

Hallett, the RFU secretary, sympathises with club officials who believe that the recent International Rugby Football Board ruling on contracts favours overwhelmingly the national governing bodies. John Hall, the Bath team manager, expressed the thoughts of many when he called for one contract, between club and player, with compensation paid by the union when it called up players for international duty. "We are producing good players at club level and we need them committed and under contract," Hall said.

The first division clubs met at Leicester last night with player-movement a hot potato. Their representatives will meet Hallett tomorrow. "When a player gets selected by England, he will find that the structured season will not interfere with his club commitments," Hallett said, aware that Rowell is unhappy that his XV to play South Africa on November 18 will be involved in league action the previous weekend.

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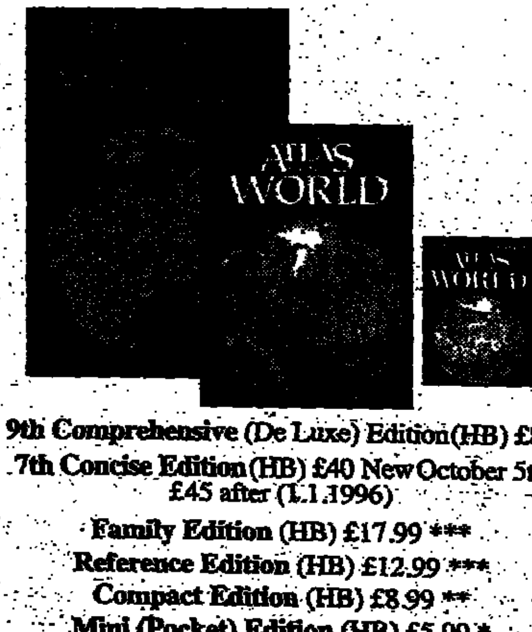

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Discussions could mean protection clause is added to Maastricht Treaty

Bid to alter European view of sport

By David Miller

WHILE Leeds United, Blackburn Rovers, Everton and the rest are engrossed in European competition this week, Lennart Johansson, president of Uefa, the governing body of European football, and David Will, British vice-president of the world body, Fifa, have been negotiating with Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, for a rationalisation of the European Union's dogmatic approach to sport.

The freedom of all players to play in any country demanded in accordance with European labour regulations, and the abolition of transfer fees, expected to be confirmed by the European Court of Justice in the Bosman case, threatened to destroy both the structure of European competition and the survival of smaller clubs, who are dependent on the downward flow of transfer fees.

Johansson and Will met on Tuesday, before seeing Dehaene — the man blocked by John Major as president of the European Union — at the Belgian Football Federation, under the chairmanship of Dr Jacques Rogge, the president of the association of European national Olympic committees.

For 18 months, Rogge has been running a liaison office manned by international lawyers, the intention being to lobby heads of government to introduce into the Maastricht Treaty a clause protecting sport.

"We have drafted such an article and are consulting the national sports confederations country by country, [the CCPR in Britain]" Rogge said yesterday.

"Such an article would oblige the European Union to consult sport before making any decision, just as they have to do with all issues regarding culture, which has a protecting article.

"We now have to address all heads of government."

Rogge believes that compromises are possible with the European politicians: for example, a regulation permitting any club to sign unlimited foreign players but to play no more than five — the three plus two assimilated players as at present — in any one match, and for transfer fees to be replaced by "tuition fees", a financial acknowledgement of the part played by the selling club in the development of players.

Manchester United are to lift their ban on away supporters. Reconstruction work reduced the capacity to 34,000 at the start of the season and home demand for tickets prompted the club to extend its embargo on visiting supporters.

"I hope the court of justice will be wise [in the Bosman case] and accept that while the old transfer system is not acceptable, it is imperative to secure funds for survival," Rogge said.

Will, who is on the Uefa Comittee for European Union affairs, said yesterday: "Football, and all sport, have a case where national identity has to be maintained.

The 'foreigner' rule applies to all team sport — basketball, ice hockey etc — in prohibiting the exclusion of non-nationals. A lot of clubs could go out of existence unless something is done. Youth teams will be abandoned by many without the safeguard of transfer fees."

At a meeting of European sports ministers in Madrid this week, attended by Iain Sproat from Britain, Feliciano Mayoral, the general secretary of the asssociation of worldwide NOC's was busy lobbying for the inclusion of a sports article in the Treaty. Rogge's liason office is funded by contributions from Uefa, and by a dozen international federations of Olympic sports.

Barry Horne, the Wales captain who was kept out of Everton's first round tie in the Cup Winners Cup against Reykjavik by the "foreigners" rule will now make his European debut at home tonight against Feyenoord. Everton are handicapped by Kanchelskis being ineligible, Amokachi being absent with the Nigeria national team and Ferguson languishing in jail.

Joe Royle will name his team from a squad of 15. Feyenoord manager Arie Haan also has his problems, with injury to Henk Fraser in defence and the suspension of Bosz in midfield.

The sending-off of Koeman in the Dutch league at the weekend will not prevent his posing the usual danger from free kicks at Goodison. Everton will need to play above themselves to take a lead to Rotterdam.

Celtic, preparing to face Paris St Germain, were lifted by the news that Paul McStay, their captain, and midfielder Phil O'Donnell were fit for their match tonight. McStay had been nursing a groin strain, while O'Donnell was struggling with a calf injury.

PAUL BARKER

Barry Horne, the "foreigner" who will make his European debut for Everton tonight

Clark looks at new deal that will tie Stone to Forest

By Russell Kempson and Peter Ball

STEVE STONE is on a roll, after a seven-day spell that would stretch the creative skills of the most imaginative writer. In the past week, the Nottingham Forest midfield player has made an encouraging England debut, albeit only a 23-minute stint in Norway, and scored match-winning goals in the 1-0 victories against Tottenham Hotspur and Auxerre. Life could not be rosier.

His impressive emergence from relative obscurity should reap its financial reward too, with Frank Clark, the Forest manager, keen to update his contract as swiftly as possible. Having recently seen Lars Bohinen leave for Blackburn Rovers for no more than an apparent lack of suitable remuneration, Clark is not willing to be burnt again. To have lost Bohinen was careless; to lose Stone would be bordering on the criminal.

Yet Stone, 24, has no intentions of cashing in on his newfound fame by seeking pastures new. His industrious display in Forest's away win in Auxerre, in the Uefa Cup second round, first leg on Tuesday, illustrated perfectly his commitment to the City Ground cause. His goal in the 22nd minute, chipped delightfully over Fabien Cool, the Auxerre goalkeeper, provided further evidence of his growing maturity.

"My goal against Tottenham had an element of fluke but not this one. I really enjoyed it," he said. "Things seem to be happening for me at the moment, which is tremendous, but it doesn't really matter who scores as long as the team keeps putting in good performances."

Forest produced just that, with their resilience tested to the full by a talented Auxerre side that still has much to offer to an intriguing tie. Forest were forced into four goalline clearances, Ian Woan making three of them, yet Stone remains confident of a place in the last 16. Roll on the return leg.

In Denmark, it was Liverpool revelling in European competition. The team rolled back the years with the sort of performance which recalled the club's great days. Drawing 0-0 with Brondby is not, on the surface, a great performance, but it was the sort of result which littered Liverpool's record over the years in the days when Ian Rush — on Tuesday playing in his 37th European tie — was a novice learning his craft alongside Souness and Dalglish. The effort achieved the necessary result, avoiding defeat, and leaving them well placed to complete the task at Anfield.

There was still a touch of the classic Liverpool missing, however, the Merseysiders giving the ball away more than usual, and Fowler and Rush both just missing with chances to end the tie there and then. "I'd have liked an way goal," Roy Evans said afterwards, "but I'll settle for 0-0." A sentiment Bob Paisley and Joe Fagan would instantly recognise. Just as they would hve recognised the performance — with Rush leading the way as the first line of defence.

That is familiar, but equally pleasing to Roy Evans were the performances of David James and Mark Wright. Two of Souness's most questioned signings are belatedly fully justifying their transfer fees after a time when their future at Anfield appeared in doubt.

Inexperienced hookers named for semi-final

By Christopher Irvine

INSTEAD of happy hookers, read two nervous ones, for Australia and New Zealand in their Halifax rugby league World Cup semi-final at the McAlpine Stadium, Huddersfield, on Sunday. Both countries will depend on inexperience in the key dummy half role, Australia by choice and New Zealand through circumstance.

Andrew Johns will follow his impressive first appearance in the No 9 shirt for Australia in the brushing aside of Fiji last Saturday. His previous experience was in an under-9s match. Although one of the most versatile players around, Henry Paul does not even have that advantage in being handed the hooking duties for New Zealand.

In 14 months at Wigan, Paul has figured in every back position and at loose forward. "You have to do things a little out of the ordinary," Frank Endacott, the New Zealand coach, said. "He'll give us several options and keep the Australian markers thinking. They won't be able to read what he's going to do, mostly because he doesn't know what he's going to do himself."

Endacott has been more lugubrious than praiseworthy of Paul in the past, but, even if out of his more favoured positions, the semi-final is the perfect platform for Paul to set out his attacking wares, and Australia are keenly aware of the dangers that his impulsiveness could pose.

Bob Fulton, the Australia coach, said: "You're talking of someone who can turn a game in the twinkling of an eye. He's got great skills, and even though he'll be wearing the No 9 jumper, we'll have to wait until Sunday to see where he ends up."

"I'm used, at Wigan, to things being chucked at me," Paul said. His switch from stand-off half has been forced on New Zealand by the positive drugs test of Syd Eru, the Auckland hooker, and ban from the tournament. Gary Freeman succeeded him for the match against Papua New Guinea, but the former captain was among those dropped yesterday in a reshuffle.

New Zealand remain a side with excellent credentials and poor results. This has meant several changes, with Tony Kemp switched from loose forward to stand-off and a first start in the centre for Kevin Iro, his Leeds team-mate. John Lomax, whose slip passes in the tackle are his trade mark, plays at prop.

"If they do put it together, they have the players to beat any side," Fulton, who, nonetheless, was less inclined yesterday to play down the world champion's tag as favourites, said. "We struggled in the first match at Wembley because of lack of preparation, but we're on the path now, and just fine-tuning everything."

Johns, a half back normally, showed great application around the rucks for Australia against Fiji, so his choice ahead of Wayne Bartrim and Aaron Raper, specialist hookers, was not really a surprise. Moreover, Johns landed 20 goals in two World Cup group games. With a niggly thigh injury to Rod Wishart's kicking leg, a decision will be taken tomorrow on who is first-choice place-kicker.

TEAMS

AUSTRALIA: T Brasher (Sydney Tigers), B Dallas (Sydney Bulldogs), T Hill (Manly), M Coyne (St George), R Wishart (Illawarra), B Fittler (Penrith, captain), G Toovey (Manly), D Pay (Sydney Bulldogs), A Johns (Newcastle), M Carroll (Manly), S Menzies (Manly), G Larson (North Sydney), J Dymock (Sydney Bulldogs) Substitutes (from) D Gillespie (Manly), R O'Davis (Newcastle), J Smith (Sydney Bulldogs) M Johns (Newcastle), N Kosef (Manly)

NEW ZEALAND: M Ridge (Manly, captain) S Hoppe (Auckland), R Blackmore (Auckland), K Iro (Leeds) R Barnett (Cronulla), T Kemp (Leeds), S Jones (Auckland) J Lomax (Canberra), H Paul (Wigan), J Lowrie (Sydney City) S Kearney (Auckland), O Pongia (Canberra), M Horo (Sydney Wests) Substitutes: G Ngamu (Auckland), H Okesene (Auckland), R Wilo (Canberra), T Iro (Sydney City)

If necessary, Johns could move to scrum half, but Fulton said that, although Geoff Toovey had an Achilles problem, it was not serious.

Gary Larson's inclusion in the second row and the selection of Brett Dallas on the wing, ahead of Robbie O'Davis, were not unexpected.

Huddersfield is approaching saturation and all 31,000 tickets for the first semi-final, at Old Trafford on Saturday, between England and Wales, have been sold. With the total attendance figure for the 15 matches now expected to be around 275,000, the success of the World Cup is assured.

Shaun Edwards, the England captain whose knee infection has eliminated him from the first semi-final, is not yet certain whether he would be fit for the final at Wembley on Saturday week.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan Bridge Correspondent

This refresher is a somewhat more difficult example of counting the distribution.

Dealer North **Love all** **Rubber bridge**

North:
♠K 4
♥A 5
♦K 10 9 7 6 5
♣Q 8 4

West:
♠8 2
♥K 10 7 3 2
♦Q 8 4
♣6 5 2

East:
♠A Q 10 8 5
♥J 9 8 6
♦2
♣A 9 7

South:
♠J 9 7 3
♥Q 4
♦A J 3
♣K J 10 3

W	N	E	S
—	1♦	1♠	2 NT
Pass	3 NT (1)	All pass	

Contract: 3 NT by South **Lead: Three of Hearts**

(1) Correct. When you have a long suit, it is usually right to raise 2 NT to 3 NT, even on a fairly minimum opening — if the long suit runs, you will have plenty of tricks; if it does not run, you will probably go off in 2 NT. West led the three of hearts to the jack and queen. South cleared the clubs and East returned the six of hearts. How should South play the diamonds?

Answer. The magic number in bridge is 13. I saw a good player who had temporarily forgotten that go off on this hand. After winning the second heart, he played the ace and king of diamonds. While that is correct with no other information, on this hand, there was a great deal more information:

(i) West led the three of hearts. Presumably, that was fourth best. So the maximum number of hearts that West can have is five (do you see why?). That gives East at least four hearts. (ii) East has overcalled One Spade and, therefore, probably has at least five. (iii) After playing off the clubs, declarer sees that East has three of that suit. Now, 12 of East's cards are accounted for — five spades, four hearts and three clubs. It is a simple matter to lay down the ace of diamonds and run the jack on the second round.

☐ The final of the Venice Cup in Peking has reached the halfway stage. Germany leads the United States by the narrowest of margins — 118 IMPs to 117. In the Bermuda Bowl, 96 deals remain. The difference between the teams is also just one IMP — United States lead Canada 114-113. The Americans took the lead early, and most observers expected them to overwhelm less experienced opponents. Canada, though, stuck to their task, and some aggressive bidding was rewarded by favourable distributions and indifferent defences. The United States have struggled at every stage, but nobody except the Canadians seriously expects them to lose.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RUTTER
a. A desk-bound officer
b. A junior NCO
c. A mercenary

PIP SQUEAK
a. A raw subaltern
b. Medals
c. Army fried veg

SHUFTI
a. A quick look
b. A Bedouin tribesman
c. An Arabic chieftain

MANGONEL
a. Army laundry
b. A type of shrapnel
c. Trebuchet

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene Chess Correspondent

Challengers gallery

Before the start of the Kasparov-Anand world championship match, I gave a brief history of all the world chess champions, with biographical details and some of their greatest games. Many readers have requested similar treatment for some of the great masters of the past who came close to the title but failed in their ambition to win it.

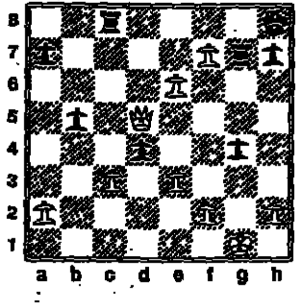
I start this occasional series with Efim Bogolyubov, who challenged Alekhine for the world championship in 1929 and 1934. Bogolyubov was defeated so decisively in these matches that he is sadly misrepresented in chess literature by a superfluity of his lost games. He was, however, a brilliant player in his own right, who won the extremely powerful tournaments of Moscow 1925 and Bad Kissingen 1928, among many others. The game today shows him at his best, a global strategy, operating on both wings leading to a shattering sacrificial conclusion.

White: Bogolyubov
Black: Mieses
Baden-Baden, 1925

Dutch Defence

1	d4	f5
2	g3	Nf6
3	Bg2	e6
4	Nf3	d5
5	0-0	Bd6
6	c4	c6
7	Nc3	Nbd7
8	Qc2	Ne4
9	Kh1	Qf6
10	Bf4	Bxf4
11	gxf4	Qh6
12	e3	Ndf6
13	Ne5	Nd7
14	Rg1	Nxe5
15	dxe5	Nxc3
16	bxc3	Bd7
17	Rad1	b5
18	Qb2	0-0
19	Qa3	Rfd8
20	cxb5	cxb5
21	Qa6	Qh5
22	Bxd5	exd5
23	Rxg7+	Kxg7
24	Qf6+	Kg8
25	Rg1+	Qg4
26	Rxg4+	fxg4
27	f5	Rdc8
28	e6	Bc6
29	Qf7+	Kh8
30	f6	Rg8
31	Qc7	Rac8
32	Qe5	d4+
33	Kg1	Bd5
34	f7+	Rg7
35	Qxd5	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



The Times world championship book

All games of the world title match are now available with commentary by Raymond Keene in a Times book, *World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand* (Batsford £9.99). Credit card orders on 01376 327901 (please quote 5/655).

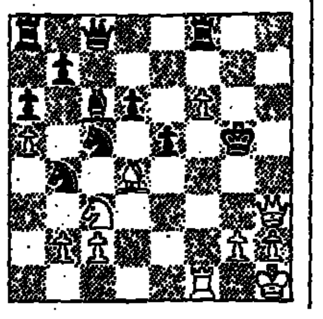
Staunton Society dinner

The annual dinner of the Staunton Society, the purpose of which is to honour Howard Staunton, Great Britain's greatest player of the 19th century, and raise money for a memorial to him at the Kensal Green Cemetery in London, will be held on November 6. It will be at Simpson's in the Strand. If you wish to attend, contact Barry Martin on 0181 995 3516.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

This position is a variation from the game Anand — Kasparov, Intel world championship, third game, 1995. White has sacrificed a rook and a piece to draw the black king into the open. How can he now force a quick mate?



Solution on page 46

Wakeman may play revival role at City

RICK WAKEMAN, the rock musician, is to be asked to come to the rescue of his ailing football club (Peter Ball writes). Wakeman, a Manchester City supporter, is being approached by a group of businessmen eager to put up to £10 million into the FA Carling Premiership's bottom club.

A consortium is being assembled by two Manchester businessmen, Mike Peck and Michael Strul, to buy shares in the club in return for two or three places on the board. "We should make it clear right from the start that this is a 'buy-in' rather than a buy-out," Peck said yesterday. Wakeman will be asked to join the group.

Coventry City have signed the Plymouth Argyle winger, Sam Shilton, the son of the former Plymouth manager and England goalkeeper, Peter Shilton, in a deal that could net the third division club £300,000. The move means that the 17-year-old will again join his father, who is on a short-term contract at Coventry. Shilton Jr has joined Coventry for an initial down-payment of £125,000 after a successful three-week trial at Highfield Road.

Brighton signed Denny Mundee yesterday after the striker was released by Brentford. Mundee, 27, a former Bournemouth player, has signed a month's contract at the Goldstone Ground with a view to a permanent deal and will make his debut at Burnley on Saturday.

Mike Stowell, the Wolverhampton Wanderers goalkeeper, could be out of action for six weeks after undergoing surgery to repair a depressed fracture of the cheekbone. The former England B international was injured when he collided with his team-mate, Eric Young, during Wolverhampton's 4-1 home defeat by Stoke City on Saturday. He is unlikely to be available again until the end of November.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

AVEIRO, Portugal: European Clubs half-marathon championship: 1, P Guerra (Por) 1hr 20min 24sec; 2, J Pinheiro (Por); 3, B Severino (It). Leading Britons: 17, G Davies (Bridgend); 22, B Farren (Sparta); 23, S Brace (Bridgend); 27, D Hiscox (Bridgend). Teams: 1, Portugal 14pts; 2, Spain 40; 3, Italy 45. British: 6, Bridgend 125; 9, Sparta (Northern Ireland) 147; 13, Blackheath 226

BASEBALL

PLAY-OFFS: American League: Cleveland 4 Seattle 0 (Cleveland wins best-of-seven series 4-2, and meet Atlanta Braves in the World Series)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sheffield 97 (Cauthorn 29, Huggins 15) Hemel Hempstead 61 (Noel 15). 7UP Trophy: Newcastle 78 (Paterson 39) Derby 93 (Humphrey 23, Leahy 20)

CRICKET

First Test match

India v New Zealand

BANGALORE (New Zealand won toss, first day of five): India, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 64 runs behind New Zealand

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

B A Young c Tendulkar b Raju	14
M J Greatbatch b Srinath	10
†A C Parore lbw b Srinath	2
M D Crowe c Tendulkar b Kumble	11
S P Fleming c Mongia b Srinath	16
S A Thomson c Mongia b Chauhan	17
C L Cairns c Manjrekar b Raju	15
*L Germon c Tendulkar b Kumble	48
D J Nash lbw b Kumble	0
M N Hart c Prabhakar b Kumble	1
D K Morrison not out	1
Extras (lb 5, b 4, nb 1)	10
Total	145

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-22, 3-30, 4-44, 5-71, 6-71, 7-116, 8-116, 9-144.

BOWLING: Prabhakar 6-0-15-0, Srinath 14-5-24-3; Raju 16-6-47-2, Kumble 18-5-39-4, Chauhan 11-7-11-1

INDIA: First Innings

M Prabhakar c Germon b Morrison	4
A Jadeja not out	30
S V Manjrekar lbw b Nash	15
S R Tendulkar c Young b Nash	4
*M Azharuddin not out	21
Extras (nb 7)	7
Total: (3 wkts)	81

V G Kambli, †N R Mongia, A Kumble, J Srinath, R Chauhan and S L V Raju to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-11, 2-45, 3-54.

BOWLING: Morrison 8-1-28-1, Cairns 9-3-21-0, Nash 6-1-11-2, Hart 5-1-21-0

Umpires: S K Bansal (India), M Kitchen (Eng)

Third Umpire: A V Jayaprakash (India)

Match referee: Peter Burge (Aus)

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (first day of four): Perth: Western Australia v New South Wales no play.

FOOTBALL

Tuesday's late results

UEFA CUP: Second round, first leg: Auxerre (Fr) 0 Nottingham Forest 1, Brondby (Den) 0 Liverpool 0, Leeds United 3 PSV Eindhoven (Holl) 5; Raith Rovers 0 Bayern Munich (Ger) 2. Other ties: Sparta Prague (Cz) 4 Zimbru Chisinau (Mol) 3; Sevilla (Sp) 1 Olympiakos (Gr) 0; Werder Bremen (Ger) 5 Dynamo Minsk (Bela) 0; Lyons (Fr) 2 Lazio (It) 1; Bordeaux (Fr) 2 Rotor Volgograd (Russ) 1; Lugano (Switz) 1 Slavia Prague (Cz) 2; AS Roma (It) 4 Aalst (Bel) 0; Strasbourg (Fr) 0 AC Milan (It) 1; Barcelona (Sp) 3 Vitoria Guimaraes (Por) 0; Benfica (Por) 1 SV Rode (Holl) 0.

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD: First round: Northern section: Crewe 8 Hartlepool 0; Rotherham 1 Burnley 1; Chesterfield 2 Notts County 1; Scunthorpe 4 Bury 0; Wrexham 1 York 0, Hull 1 Preston 0, Bradford 1 Carlisle 1. Southern section: Swansea 0 Leyton Orient 0; Cardiff 3 Gillingham 2; Fulham 2 Walsall 5, Brentford 1 Exeter 1, Brighton 0 Bristol Rovers 2; Bristol City 2 Barnet 0; Torquay 1 Swindon 1

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Third division: Arbroath 1 Queen's Park 1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Barrow 3 Witton 0, Emley 1 Gainsborough 0, Frickley 1 Blyth Spartans 2, Matlock 2 Droylsden 2; Spennymoor 0 Guiseley 0. Postponed: Chorley v Accrington Stanley; Knowsley v Bamber Bridge, Marine v Winsford. First division: Atherton LR 2 Curzon Ashton 2; Lancaster 4 Great Harwood 1. Netherfield 0 Fleetwood 3; Warrington 1 Radcliffe 1, Whitley Bay 3 Worksop 3

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Burton 0 VS Rugby 0, Sudbury 5 Gravesend and Northfleet 3. Midland division: Bury Town 1 Rothwell 4

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Yeading 3 Purfleet 1. First division: Chesham 0 Billericay 1, Heybridge Swifts 1 Maidenhead United 1, Leyton Pennant 1 Staines 3; Tooting and Mitcham 1 Uxbridge 0; Whyteleafe 2 Bognor Regis 4. Second division: Canvey Island 1 Leatherhead 1, Chalfont St Peter 2 Hampton 0; Hemel Hempstead 3 Bracknell 1, Tilbury 1 Edgware 3, Witham 4 Egham 3. Third division: Cove 0 Horsham 5, Flackwell Heath 0 Wealdstone 0; Windsor and Eton 2 Northwood 0

FA UMBRO TROPHY: First qualifying round replays: Baldock Town 3 Barking 2 aet; Bilston Town 4 Sutton Coldfield 4 aet, Bishop's Stortford 5 Abingdon Town 1, Braintree Town 1 Buckingham Town 0, Dulwich 1 Carshalton 1 (aet), Leicester Utd 5 Workington 0; Leigh RMI 7 Bridgnorth Town 0, Margate 1 Bashley 2; Marlow 1 Harrow Borough 4, Thame Utd 2 Worthing 0. Waterlooville 0 Hendon 1

LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido 0 Ton Pentre 2

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Watford 1 Bristol Rovers 0.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Derby 0 Stoke 2, Sheffield Utd 3 Tranmere 1. Second division: Grimsby 2 Huddersfield 1

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Stockton 3 Bedlington 2; West Auckland 1 Chester-le-Street 1

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedfont 1 Reading 2

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham 0 Westbury 0, Elmore 3 Bideford 1, Paulton 2 Backwell 1. Postponed: Bristol Manor Farm v Bridport

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Rocester 1 Armitage 2, Shifnal 1 Stratford 1.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard 1 Haverhill 0, Great Yarmouth 1 Watton 0, Halstead 6 Soham 1, Woodbridge 1 Diss 2.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington 2 Eastleigh 0, Thatcham 3 Cowes Sports 0, Wimborne 4 B.A.T. 2. Postponed: Gosport v Bournemouth.

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Senior Cup: Second round, first leg: Hanwell 1 Woolwich 0.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Royston 1 Toddington 1. Senior division Cup: Group B: Winslow 1 Holmer Green 5

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare 3 Ossett Town 4; Ossett Albion 3 Denaby 0. Stocksbridge PS 2 Brigg 0

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hassocks 1 Saltdean 2, Langney Sports 1 Hailsham 1; Oakwood 0 Burgess Hill 3, Ringmer 5 Three Bridges 1

FA YOUTH CUP: Second qualifying round: Southport 3 Bolton 2; Gillingham 2 Sittingbourne 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Fuji Film Trophy: Second round: Cambridge 2 Islington 5, Isle of Wight 1 Southampton 2, Watford 1 St Albans 2. Tour match (under-19): Merseyside 4 Cologne 1. Brighton Howard Johnson Trophy: Final (under-16): Kings Manor 2, Varndean 0.

GOLF

SPAIN: PGA European Tour Qualifying School. First round scores:

PERALADA (par 72): 66: A Saddington (Scot) 67: * P Nelson (Eng) 69: D Jones (Eng), I Young (Scot). 70: N Walton (Eng), C Ronald (Scot), S Henderson (Scot), C O'Carroll (Wales), P Lyons (Eng), * C Challen (Eng), M Roberts (Wales), D James (Scot), M Welsh (Eng), H O'Neill (Ire), C Bovet (Switz)

EMPORDA (par 71): 65: R Dinsdale (Wales) 67: * S Taylor (Eng), N Graves (Eng) 68: R Russell (Scot), M Anglert (Swe).

ST CYPRIEN (par 73): 68: J Dahlstrom (Fr), M Pendaries (Fr), * N Swaffield (Eng), C Lacroix (Fr). 69: M Besse (Fr) 70: C Duran (Switz), P Iguaran (Sp), E Galardi (Fr), B Teilena (Fr), * S Delagrange (Fr), G Van Der Nest (SA), W Jacklin (Eng)

PALS (par 73): 69: F Cea (Sp), T Nielsen (Nor) 70: * S Drummond (Eng), P Bisazza (It), J Rozadilla (Sp), D Phillips (US), * D Peach (Eng), * M Wheelhouse (NZ)

* denotes amateur

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 3 Calgary 3 (OT); Chicago 6 Florida 3, Edmonton 3 New Jersey 1, New York Rangers 5 New York Islanders 1, Toronto 7 San Jose 2, Washington 4 Dallas 3, Boston 7 St Louis 4; Winnipeg 5 Tampa Bay 2

RUGBY UNION

Latin Cup

France	52 Romania	8

France: Tries: Carminati, Castaignede, Arlettaz 2, Pelous, Ntamack, Hueber. Cons: Castaignede 4. Pens: Castaignede 2. Dropped goal: Castaignede. Romania: Tries: Mateı, Negrea.

Argentina	26 Italy	6

ARGENTINA: Tries: Martin, Teran, Salvat. Con: Luna. Pens: Luna (3). Italy: Pens: Bonomi 2.

(in San Miguel de Tucuman)

CLUB GAMES: Cross Keys 19 Pontypridd 48, Neath 12 Maesteg 10, Oxford University 55 London Welsh 6; Tondu 3 Bridgend 12. Newbridge 38 South Wales Police 30. Cambridge University 59 Crawshays Welsh XV 5, Narberth 21 Llandovery 23, New Dock Stars 26 Llanelli 47

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Bishop's Stortford 31 The Leys 20; Rugby 27 Nottingham HS 5.

SNOOKER

SUNDERLAND: Skoda Grand Prix: First round (England unless stated): A Cairns bt B Morgan 5-4, A Hicks bt R Lawler 5-3, S Hendry (Scot) bt J Birch 5-0, P Ebdon bt S Ventham 5-2; W Thorne bt S Francisco (SA) 5-3; S Ali (Pak) bt G Wilkinson 5-4, J Swail (N Ire) bt J Cundy 5-3; K Doherty (Ire) bt M Wilson 5-0; T Drago (Malta) bt D Mountjoy (Wales) 5-1

TENNIS

LYON: Men's tournament: First round: M Huard (Fr) bt J Frana (Arg) 7-5, 6-4, W Ferreira (SA) bt J Golmard (Fr) 5-7, 6-2, 6-4.

VIENNA: Men's tournament: First round: J Bjoerkman (Swe) bt C Bergstroem (Swe) 3-6, 6-3, 6-3; A Voinea (Rom) bt M-K Goellner (Ger) 6-3, 6-4; M Woodforde (Aus) bt M Hipfl (Austria) 6-3, 6-1, O Ogorodov (Uzbek) bt A Medvedev (Ukr) 6-3, 6-1, P Kuehnen (Ger) bt K Novacek (Cz) 7-6, 6-4, A Volkov (Russ) bt O Gross (Ger) 6-3, 6-1, B Steven (NZ) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 7-6, 3-6, 6-2; T Johansson (Swe) bt M Gustafsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-4.

HONG KONG: Men's tournament: Silver group: A Gaudenzi (It) bt H Leconte (Fr) 6-3, 6-1. Red group: M Philippoussis (Aus) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 6-7, 6-3, 7-5. Gold group: S Edberg (Swe) bt L Jensen (USA) 6-4, 6-3.

POOLS DIVIDENDS

LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance 24pts £2,009.05, 23 £41.20, 22pts £4.50, 21pts £1.35. Four draws: £4.65. Ten homes (paid on nine): £334.75. Five aways: £5.10

VERNONS: Treble chance: 24pts £729.80, 23 £23.25, 22 £2.60. Ten homes (paid on eight): £61.20. Five aways void

ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts £288.60, 23 £3.85, 22 £0.50. Easy six: £158.20. Four draws: £11.20. Eight homes: £1,877.40. Four aways: £1.00. Goals galore: £3.00. Lucky numbers: 13 5 18 8 2 24

Australian rejects claim of greed

Norman stands firm despite wintry welcome

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

FOR the second time in three months, golf's caravan has alighted at St Andrews. In July, it was for the 124th Open Championship and crowds clogged the streets and threatened to bring the traffic to a standstill. Today, it is for the eleventh Alfred Dunhill Cup, which starts over the Old Course this morning.

Those sunlit days just past midsummer, when John Daly won the Open and Costantino Rocca won our hearts, seemed a long way away yesterday. The old town is as grey, cold and forbidding as its nickname suggests. Winds of 40mph roared over the hallowed turf and pellets of rain swept into the faces of golfers. In this city, which seems hewn from granite, it was too cold yesterday for Rocky to play golf and so Sylvester Stallone withdrew from the pro-am.

Greg Norman found himself at the centre of a row about the appearance money he receives at some tournaments. This comes after accusations in a newspaper article by Mark McCormack, the head of the International Management Group (IMG), the promoters of last week's World Match Play Championship, that Norman demanded £250,000 to compete at Wentworth.

"Greg Norman wants money — full stop," McCormack claimed, "and we've never paid any appearance money. Once you do it, you're dead. How can you pay Norman and not Ernie Els ... But we've got to be consistent. He's the only one who wants it."

Norman said that he received appearance money in eight of the approximately 24 tournaments he entered each year and, at two of those eight, he gave some of that fee to charity. "Some of the figures mentioned are ridiculous," Norman said. "The Irish Open, for example. I wish I did get £250,000. As for the World Match Play, all I can say is that when I was with them [IMG], appearance money was never a problem." Norman left IMG to run his own management company just under two years ago. "Every event I competed in when I was with IMG, except those in the US, they asked for appearance money for me."

Norman, Steve Elkington, the US PGA champion, and Craig Parry, represent Australia in this medal matchplay event and are the second seeds. Also in their group are England, Argentina and Spain. "I like this event," Norman said, "and I think we should do pretty well. Wind is less of a factor in the Dunhill Cup because you are playing one guy at the same time. You just have to beat that guy."

The United States, comprising Ben Crenshaw, Peter Jacobsen and Lee Janzen, are the top seeds and are drawn in group one with Canada, the defending champions, Sweden, the 1991 winners, and Ireland, the 1990 champions. This is clearly the hardest of the four groups. Scotland are in group two with South Africa, Taiwan and Germany, Wales in group three with Zimbabwe, New Zealand and Japan.

Before the Fijian rugby league players left for the World Cup in Europe, they prepared for the cold by spending time in giant freezers. The South Africans might have done the same thing. David Frost loped across the 1st tee at St Andrews towards the practice putting green, his head shrunk into his shoulders, his hands deep in his pockets.

"It's going to get even colder this afternoon, David," someone said, "and tomorrow the wind is going to get up, too. It will blow at 50mph."

"Thank you very much," Frost, whose South African team-mates are Ernie Els and Retief Goosen, said.

At 5.50am yesterday, the weather forecast said there would be a strong west-southwesterly wind that might become a gale later. It did not take long to arrive. Five minutes later, the Meteorological Office issued a weather warning suggesting the wind might reach 45mph in the afternoon.

☐ Mark James, the England captain at St Andrews this week, said he was not interested in succeeding Bernard Gallacher as the captain of the Europe Ryder Cup team. James, 41, described the captaincy as "a thankless task."

DRAW

Seeds in capitals; number denotes seeding

Group one
(1) UNITED STATES (B Crenshaw, P Jacobsen, L Janzen); (8) CANADA (R Gibson, D Barr, R Stewart); Ireland (D Clark, P Walton, R Rafferty); Sweden (J Parnevik, P-U Johansson, J Sandelin).

Group two
(4) SCOTLAND (C Montgomerie, S Torrance, A Coltart); (5) S AFRICA (E Els, D Frost, R Goosen); Taiwan (Chen Liang-hsi, Chung Chun-hsing, Lu Wen-teh); Germany (A Cejka, S Strüver, H P Thuel).

Group three
(3) ZIMBABWE (N Price, M McNulty, A Johnstone); (6) NEW ZEALAND (M Campbell, F Nobilo, G Turner); Wales (I Woosnam, P Affleck, M Mouland); Japan (H Kase, N Serizawa, T Watanabe).

Group four
(2) AUSTRALIA (G Norman, S Elkington, C Parry); (7) ENGLAND (M James, B Lane, H Clark); Argentina (E Romero, J Coceres, V Fernandez), Spain (M Jimenez, J Rivero, I Garrido).

☐ In each group, seeded countries play the unseeded ones on Thursday and Friday, then the other seeds on Saturday. Semi-finals, on Sunday morning, will be: group 1 winners v group 2 winners; group 3 winners v group 4 winners. The final is on Sunday afternoon.

Builders famously rewarded for sound planning

BY MEL WEBB

THEN there were two. For the second time in three days, a past winner of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge won a regional final to claim a place in the national final. As far as this competition goes, it has been a week for records.

The venue yesterday was the beautiful, undulating Waterfall course at Mannings Heath Golf Club in the heart of Sussex where, in the South-West Home Counties regional final of the Challenge, Hall and Coaker Building Contractors, a Sussex firm, won their second trip to a national final at La Manga in three years by scoring a remarkable 99 Stableford points. Delighted? Overjoyed? That was not the half of it.

The team was led by Danny Hall and Andy Coaker, directors who were in the winning quartet two years ago, as was Andy McCelland, who worked for them in 1993 but now is employed by one of the biggest builders in the country. He was therefore appearing this time as one of the company's two guest players. The team was completed by Mick Stobbard, making his first appearance in the Challenge this year.

Hall and Coaker (the firm) was determined that Hall and Coaker (the players) should give themselves the best possible chance of success again, and had worked tirelessly on their games since making sure of a regional final place for the third year running. They are obviously believers in the work ethic — scarcely a day has gone by since when they have not had a golf club in their hands.

"If there are two days when I haven't practised in the last six week I would be surprised," Hall said. "I've had lessons from my club professional, and if I've not had time to get to the club I've practised my chipping in the back garden or putted on the carpet."

Coaker echoed his words. "We had a superb time in La Manga in the first year, and we thought there was no point in playing in the regional final unless we were going to give it our best shot."

The result was there for all to see. They had very easily the highest score to date in the regional final series, and won by eight points from Nissan Motor (GB) with ANS plc a further point behind.

In fact, with a scintilla of luck they might have created another Challenge record by becoming the first team to reach three figures in a regional final. Hall, McCelland and Stobbard all had putts for birdies on the last green; all of them missed.

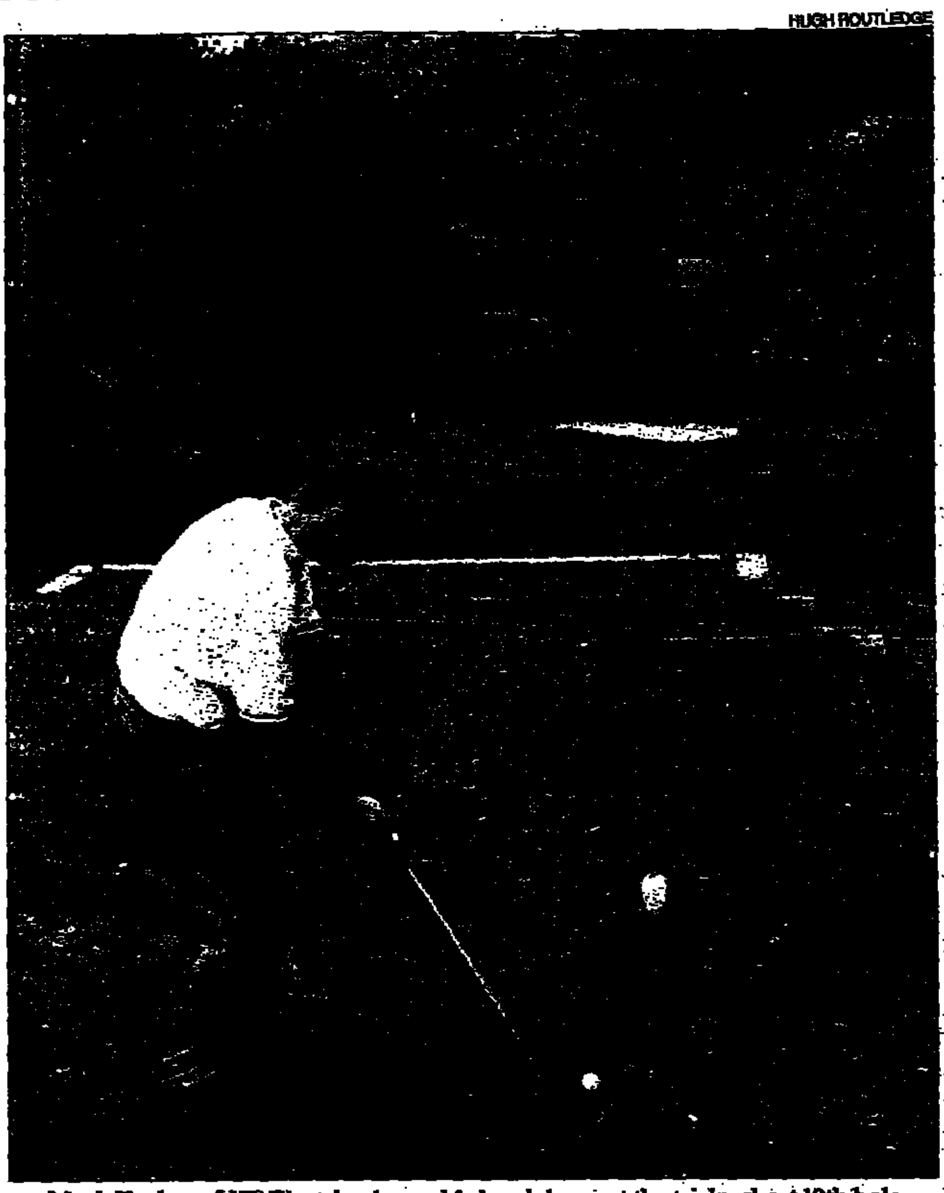
Happy as they were, the winners were left with one small worry. McCelland has been with his present employers only since May, and was not sure, even in his moment of triumph, if he could make the national final week. "We've got show houses opening that week, and I shall have to ask very nicely to get the time off," he said. There are at least three people hoping McCelland catches the boss on a good day.

Hall and Coaker follow Prebon Yamane, last year's winners, who qualified at The London Club on Monday, into the 1995 national final. "Thank them for looking after the trophy for us," Coaker said. "But tell them we want it back." The way they played yesterday, nobody would bet against it.

99: Hall & Coaker Building Contractors Ltd. 91: Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd. 90: ANS plc. 89: CLC Group Ltd; International Business Communications. 88: Duracell Batteries Ltd. 87: Expro North Sea Ltd. 85: Bayer plc; Pinewood; Barclays Bank (South-East Region). 84: Pall Europe Ltd; First Choice Holidays. 83: KT Electrics.

79: VCM Communications. 78: Taywood Homes Ltd; BHS. 77: Stanhope Interior plc. 76: Coopers & Lybrand (South Coast Practice); The Sigma Group. 75: Charles Russell (Solicitors); Nationwide Building Society. 69: Ratedale Security; Thames Water plc; IPC Magazines Ltd. NR: IBH Berkshire Independent Hospital.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Mark Taylor, of KT Electrics, keeps his head down at the tricky short 10th hole

European task force ready for Belmont challenge

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

EUROPE has again conjured an impressive racing task force for the $10 million Breeders' Cup at Belmont Park, in New York, a week on Saturday. Of the 18-strong entry announced yesterday, only Nicolotte, nominated for the Mile, appears unlikely to make the cut in fields restricted to a maximum 14 runners.

Half the 18-strong European entry hails from Britain, with the trio comprising Hever Golf Rose, Lake Coniston and Owington all destined to clash in the Breeders' Cup Sprint over six furlongs on dirt. William Hill believes a British Sprint triumph is on the cards, quoting Lake Coniston as their 7-2 favourite. Ladbrokes cannot split the July Cup winner and Hever Golf Rose, bracketing the pair at 5-1, while Coral is best about Hever Golf Rose, at 6-1.

Britain's senior handicapper, Geoffrey Gibbs, rates Lake Coniston a remarkable 6lb clear of Classy Mirage, the top-rated North American sprinter. And the colt's trainer, Geoff Lewis, said: "Lake Coniston's effort in winning the July Cup has not been equalled by another sprinter for a very long time. If he reproduces that form in the United States, he'll win." Punters should tread warily: Lake Coniston has yet to race either round a bend or on a dirt surface.

Perhaps the best prospect for a European victory rests with the Turf over 12 furlongs. The French-trained Freedom Cry, runner-up to Lammtarra in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe, heads the market at 4-1 with Coral. The firm then bets: 6-1 Hernando, 8-1 Carnegie, 10-1 Tamure, 16-1 Lando and Rifapour.

For many, however, the highlight will be the clash between Cigar, the winner of his last 11 races, and the Godolphin-trained Halling, victorious on his last eight outings in the Classic.

SPORTS LETTERS

Variety in rugby league

From Mr Ernest Blewitt

Sir, If, as the Headmaster of The Royal School, Dungannon (Sports Letters, October 13) asserts, rugby union provides for the "squat, the short and the tall", then rugby league caters even more so. In England's victory over Fiji last Wednesday, Bobby Goulding, the shortest man on the field, got the man of the match award. Jason Robinson, the next-shortest, was in close contention. Even in the forwards, league caters for a greater variety because, in the absence of lineouts, there is not the same premium on height as in union. Mobility is the most important factor.

Regarding the future of the game in our schools, the headmaster seems unaware of the amateur rugby clubs, both league and union, which run teams from five years old, upwards. These coach and train and are often branches of sports clubs offering a wide variety of sport. Within four miles of Lowton, there are at least half-a-dozen such clubs, and it is not unusual for the school union teams to have a first year intake of ready-made players, many of these trained in the league code. Similarly in schools where league is the school's choice of rugby, boys trained in union provide their contribution.

There has been for many years, far more movement between the amateur codes than has been recognised. As regards the "doctors, dentists and lawyers", these clubs already contain professional people who play alongside everyone else and are less conscious of mixing than the headmaster seems to be. There are far more amateur rugby league teams than professional.

Yours sincerely,
ERNEST BLEWITT,
15 Cleveland Drive,
Lowton,
Warrington.

Case for playing Le Tissier

From Mr Harold Margolis

Sir, David Miller's analysis of the Norway v England game (October 13)is the politics of negativism, and out of touch with the requirements of football supporters. The match was so stultifyingly boring that I, and many others watching with me, switched off the television at half-time. Where was the entertainment? Where were the players with an ounce of imagination who would take a risk and beat one, two or three opponents with sheer ball control and dribbling ability? Where was the inspired pass?

Tactical football without inspiration is the death-knell of the game. If this is the way England are going to play, I would rather they were knocked out of the European championship finals at the first opportunity.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD MARGOLIS,
19 Telfords Yard,
The Highway, E1

From Mr Roy Brook

Sir, I have just read in astonishment the article by David Miller and the comments made about the Norway v England match and in particular, Matthew Le Tissier. It was clear from almost everybody (Messrs Venables and Miller excluded) that England were shambolic and, far from progressing, are deeper in the abyss than they were under Graham Taylor. Has Mr Miller forgotten that we are ranked 26th in the world behind such teams as Egypt?

The England team is crying out for a player of Le Tissier's world-class ability. One minute of genius from him would have more than outwieghed the 90 minutes of tedium we had to put up with. If he does have "three basic flaws", then why are Newcastle, Blackburn, Chelsea and others all prepared to break the transfer records to secure his services?

Comments like those made by Mr Miller are ill thought out and demean all those true English fans who want nothing more than to be proud of their football team. It is a sad indictment of English football that the last time our supporters had anything to be proud of was over five years ago, which is five years too long!

Yours etc,
ROY BROOK,
1 Bradds Mount,
Bradds East,
Rushen,
Isle of Man.

From Mr Paul Child

Sir, David Miller's defence of England's sterile performance against Norway sorely misses the point: the team is as far away as ever from creating goal-scoring opportunities against the type of tight defences we are likely to encounter in next year's European championships.

Such is the poverty of his expectations, the condemnation of Matthew Le Tissier is predictable. Less rational is his assertion that Southampton fans overrate his talents due to the dearth of other stars in the their current team. Having watched many exceptional players over the years (eg, Ball, Keegan, Osgood, Shearer), we are capable of making our own objective judgments.

If, to sacrifice individual brillance for a system (even if it also subjugates Shearer, the only world-class player in the current side, to the role of non-scoring workhorse), Le Tissier is not to make the starting eleven, let me pose the following question: with 20 minutes to go, England are losing 1-0 to Germany in the European final; who would you rather see warming up on the touchline — Sheringham, Wise, Stone, Lee — or Le Tissier?

Yours etc,
PAUL CHILD,
April Cottage,
Polecat Valley,
Hindhead, Surrey

Appalling behaviour

From Mr Victor Shroot

Sir, The disgraceful scenes after the Murray and Docherty fight by so-called supporters should not come as a surprise to those who love to play or watch sport.

Spectator participation, both in professional and amateur sport, has taken on a dangerous and almost psychopathic side to it. My son, who is seven years old, plays mini-rugby for Richmond and is fortunate to play for the A team in that age group. He has played in four competitive tournaments at which the behaviour of some supporters, mainly mothers and fathers, has been appalling.

Not only referees, but players as well have come in for verbal abuse. Some of the language used I have no wish for my son to hear. It should make me feel very angry, but only makes me sad.

Sad, because as a nation, we seem to have lost the meaning of the word "sporting". When I was growing up, I made many friendships through sport, including some of my opponents. I hoped that my son would follow suit. I think the odds of this happening today must be very long indeed.

Yours sincerely,
VICTOR SHROOT,
2F, Westover Road, SW18

More than full

From Mr W. H. R. Jones

Sir, In his report on the World Match Play Championship (October 12), your golf correspondent, John Hopkins, refers to the players competing, "not over the sprint-like distances" used in the Walker Cup and others, but "the full 36 holes," thus implying that 36 holes is the normal match distance.

Thirty-six holes is an artificial extension purely for commercial reasons. A full golf match is the same length as that of a full golf course, ie, 18 holes, and it would fly in the face of all golfing tradition to think otherwise.

Yours sincerely,
BILL JONES,
Bellevue Lane,
Guilden Sutton,
Chester.

Poor coverage

From Mr J. B. Griffin

Sir, Mr Overland, of Camberley (Sports Letters, October 13) is right to complain about the television "coverage" by the BBC of the rugby league World Cup which has meant that most of the people in the country have been deprived of the spectacle of some of the games.

However, the south of England is not alone in being misled by the BBC. Here, in the North West, highlights have been shown, but with no advance publicity in television listings! Many, therefore, have missed them.

Coverage of rugby league by the BBC is, to echo Mr Overland, disgraceful, exemplified by its choice of Ray French to follow the egregious Eddie Waring as television commentator, when so many excellent experienced people were available. The BBC was determined that league should continue to be badly presented, so that this excellent product would not get the marketing it deserves.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. GRIFFIN,
9, Oakwood Drive,
Leigh, Lancashire.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Yarmouth

Going: good to firm becoming firm

2.00 (1m 3yd) 1, Neuwest (R Hills, 7-2); 2, Darcey Bussell (25-1); 3, Timeless (8-1). Bend Wavy 5-4 fav. 11 ran. 2l, ½l. H Thomson Jones. Tote: £4.70; £1.30, £7.40, £2.40. DF: £48.70. Trio: £95.90. CSF: £72.36.

2.30 (1m 3yd) 1, Nosey Native (G Bardwell, 20-1); 2, Prince Of Florence (9-1); 3, Jerry Cutrona (16-1); 4, Vanishing Point (14-1). Queen's Insignia 11-4 fav. 19 ran. Nk, 1½l. J Pearce. Tote: £22.30; £3.60, £3.10, £9.40, £8.30. DF: £82.40. Trio: £411.60. CSF: £183.96. Tricast: £2,890.80.

3.00 (1m 3yd) 1, Total Rach (W Woods, 10-1); 2, No Speeches (14-1); 3, Cicerone (20-1); 4, Mary's Case (3-1 fav). 20 ran. 1l, 2½l. R Ingram. Tote: £13.50; £2.80, £6.30, £3.00, £1.30. DF: £120.20. Trio: £977.20. CSF: £145.05. Tricast: £2,554.36. No bid.

3.30 (6f 3yd) 1, Tamhid (R Hills, 15-8); 2, Farhana (12-1); 3, Inner Circle (7-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Marcomir. 1¾l, 2½l. H Thomson Jones. Tote: £2.50; £1.40, £3.20. DF: £17.50. CSF: £17.59.

4.00 (7f 3yd) 1, Prize Giving (M Hills, 4-6 fav; Our Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Unreal City (5-1); 3, Al Shadeedah (5-1). 11 ran. NR: Magic Heights. Nk, 1¾l. G Wragg. Tote: £2.00; £1.10, £1.90, £1.60. DF: £2.10. Trio: £7.60. CSF: £5.83.

4.30 (7f 3yd) 1, Brighstone (W Ryan, 5-2 fav); 2, Nasrudin (3-1); 3, Classy Chief (16-1). 11 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. H Cecil. Tote: £3.90; £1.50, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £4.60. Trio: £61.30. CSF: £11.08.

5.00 (7f 3yd) 1, Spencer's Revenge (G Bardwell, 10-1); 2, Pelleman (12-1); 3, Mutabassim (10-1); 4, Erlton (7-1). Zahwa 100-30 fav. 18 ran. NR: Cutpurse Moll, Spanish Stripper. 1¾l, 1¾l. M Ryan. Tote: £10.30; £2.00, £4.20, £3.00, £1.50. DF: £82.20. Trio: £146.00. CSF: £128.33. Tricast: £1,158.42.

Jackpot: £19,622.10 (0.18 winning tickets. Pool of £22,662.15 carried forward to Newbury today).
Placepot: £83.10. Quadpot: £24.20.

Exeter

Going: good to firm

1.50 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Shaarid (J Osborne, 5-4 fav); 2, Sozzled (7-2); 3, Mr Cotton Socks (40-1). 7 ran. NR: Clod Hopper. 3l, 3½l. I Balding. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.60. DF: £3.00. CSF: £5.74.

2.20 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Little Hooligan (A P McCoy, 7-1); 2, Sharp Gazelle (10-1); 3, Bladon (7-4 fav). 8 ran. NR: Farman. 1l, 15l. G Edwards. Tote: £6.70; £2.00, £3.30, £1.60. DF: £43.50. Trio: £106.60. CSF: £64.30. Tricast: £158.42.

2.50 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Millies Own (G Tormey, 9-2 fav); 2, Herbert Buchanan (11-2). 3, Spearhead Again (7-1). 15 ran. ¾l, 1l. P Hobbs. Tote: £4.40; £2.40, £2.50, £2.70. DF: £14.80. Trio: £44.50. CSF: £28.59. Tricast: £159.06.

3.20 (2m 6f 110yd ch) 1, Harwell Lad (Mr R Nuttall, 11-8 fav), 2, Regime Boy (10-3). 3, Maremma Gale (8-1). 10 ran. 6l, hd. R Alner. Tote: £2.50; £1.30, £1.40, £1.90. DF: £5.00. Trio: £9.10. CSF: £8.50.

3.50 (2m 3f hdle) 1, Mr Woodlark (J Frost, 7-2 fav); 2, Jonjas Chudleigh (9-2); 3, Duke Of Dreams (11-2). 8 ran. 5l, 7l. R Frost. Tote: £4.10, £1.70, £1.60, £1.80. DF: £9.40. CSF: £18.48. Tricast: £76.30.

4.20 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Morning Blush (C Maude, 7-4); 2, Tour Leader (8-11 fav); 3, Mick The Yank (7-1). 5 ran. 1½l, 20l. M Pipe. Tote: £2.80; £1.10, £1.30. DF: £1.40. CSF: £3.43.

Placepot: £14.70. Quadpot: £23.80.

Newcastle

Going: firm

2.10 (3m ch) 1, McGregor The Third (B Harding, 2-9 fav); 2, Coup De Catherine (11-2); 3, River Bee (14-1). 6 ran. 25l, dist. G Richards. Tote: £1.20; £1.20, £1.10. DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.21.

2.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Astraleon (B Storey, 7-2), 2, Innocent George (2-1 fav); 3, Chadwick's Ginger (9-4). 4 ran. 1½l, 3½l. R Allan. Tote: £4.50. DF: £5.90. CSF: £9.79.

3.10 (2m 4f ch) 1, Sword Beach (P Niven, 6-5 fav); 2, Claxes Own (11-8); 3, Bad Trade (33-1). 4 ran. 4l, 15l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.10. DF: £1.30. CSF: £3.01.

3.40 (2m 110yd ch) 1, De Jordaan (Mr R Johnson, 4-7 fav); 2, Regal Romper (9-4); 3, Forward Glen (11-2). 3 ran. NR: Slippery Max. 4l, 30l. W Cunningham. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.12.

4.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Monkey Wench (B Storey, 8-13 fav); 2, Billsbrook (6-1); 3, Sharp Sand (14-1). 5 ran. 14l, 8l. Mrs J Goodfellow. Tote: £1.60; £1.00, £2.80. DF: £2.70. CSF: £4.41.

4.40 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Done Well (A Dobbin, 4-1); 2, Lancer (5-1); 3, Samaka Hara (7-2). Hee's A Dancer 6-4 fav (f). 10 ran. NR: Royal Expression. 3½l, 8l. P Monteith. Tote: £5.10; £1.40, £2.40, £2.00. DF: £14.70. Trio: £34.60. CSF: £23.96.

Placepot: £75.50. Quadpot: £110.90.

THUNDERER

2.00 Tinker Osmaston. 2.30 Thunderheart. 3.00 *Eurolink Shadow*. 3.30 Pampas Breeze. 4.00 Dushyantor. 4.30 Kingchip Boy. 5.00 Ever So Lyrical. 5.30 Northern Soul.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 TINKER OSMASTON.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 4.00 Dushyantor.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 KEGWORTH LIMITED STAKES
(£2,519: 5f 13yd) (26 runners)

1	(18)	5526	MALIBU MAN 9 (D,G) S Mellor 3-9-6	A Daly (7)	89
2	(25)	2000	GIGGLESWICK GIRL 3 (D,F,G) M Channon 4-9-5	J Dennis (7)	84
3	(9)	6550	HICKORY BLUE 15 (V,D,F) Mrs N Macauley 5-9-4	J Weaver	87
4	(6)	2100	GRAND CHAPEAU 9 (D,F) R Hannon 3-9-3	G Carter	76
5	(16)	0000	JUST DISSIDENT 12 (F) R Whitaker 3-9-3	A Culhane	84
6	(21)	0412	TINKER OSMASTON 2 (CD,F,S) M Saunders 4-9-2	J F Egan	[illegible]
7	(20)	3500	BOURSIN 5 (F,S) N Littmoden 8-9-1	T G McLaughlin	83
8	(2)	0234	DOMICKSKY 5 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 7-9-1	P P Murphy (5)	81
9	(26)	2000	FRIENDLY BRAVE 9 (S) Miss G Kelleway 5-9-1	A Whelan (5)	87
10	(8)	0600	HIGH DOMAIN 35 (D,G,S) J Spearing 4-9-1	Alex Greaves	88
11	(17)	-600	HIGH HOLME 20 (V,D,G) D Thom 4-9-1	G Duffield	85
12	(7)	5434	JOHN O'DREAMS 22 (D,F,G,S) Mrs A King 10-9-1	A Garth	71
13	(3)	0420	LITTLE SABOR 8 (G) P Evans 4-9-1	K Fallon	84
14	(5)	0000	MOUJEEB 5 (V,D,G) Pat Mitchell 5-9-1	J Quinn	76
15	(1)	6030	TAEL OF SILVER 27 (B,C,D,F,G) K Burke 3-9-1	P McCabe (3)	88
16	(10)	0400	THE FED 5 (V,CD,F,S) R Whitaker 5-9-1	J Lowe	74
17	(23)	4050	TYRONE FLYER 3 (B,D,G,S) C Allen 6-9-1	S Davies	81
18	(12)	5544	CEMAES BAY 16 J Berry 3-9-0	J Carroll	90
19	(19)	1-05	KUNG FRODE 31 (D,G) B McMahon 3-9-0	L Newton (5)	90
20	(24)	4050	ROCKCRACKER 17 (B,F) R Charlton 3-9-0	W Ryan	78
21	(4)	5542	SILK COTTAGE 5 (V) R Whitaker 3-9-0	A Clark	90
22	(13)	0300	TIME IS MONEY 5 M Tompkins 3-9-0	P Robinson	75
23	(14)	0005	WARNING SHOT 9 (B,S) M Meade 3-9-0	V Slattery	84
24	(11)	0306	JUCEA 3 (B,D,F,S) J Spearing 6-8-13	S Sanders	88
25	(15)	4009	LUGANA VISION 20 (D,S) C Allen 3-8-12	M Fenton	78
26	(22)	8000	NORDICO PRINCESS 20 (D,F,G,S) M Brittain 4-8-10	R Cochrane	91

6-1 Tinker Osmaston, 7-1 Silk Cottage, 8-1 Grand Chapeau, Jucea, 9-1 Cemaes Bay, 10-1 Domicksky, 12-1 Kung Frode, Malibu Man, 14-1 others.

2.30 WOODBOROUGH HANDICAP
(£4,858: 2m 9yd) (20)

1	(14)	1285	MOSHAAJIR 16 (D,F,G,S) C Smith 5-9-10	G Duffield	92
2	(4)	5263	THUNDERHEART 98 (D,F) L Cumani 4-9-8	J Weaver	95
3	(3)	2236	SUPREME STAR 18 (F,S) P Hedger 4-9-7	N Varley (3)	92
4	(2)	10/	TIGERSONG 356J (G) Miss M Milligan 5-9-4	J Carroll	—
5	(13)	3312	SEA VICTOR 3 (D,F,S) J L Harris 3-9-1 (4ex)	P Robinson	[illegible]
6	(17)	0632	MATAMOROS 7 (V) J Dunlop 3-9-0	G Carter	95
7	(7)	2-50	BANG IN TROUBLE 19 J J O'Neill 4-8-10	K Fallon	91
8	(5)	30-0	TILTY 167J (D,F,S) A Streeter 5-8-10	L Newton (5)	87
9	(12)	2500	REQUESTED 13 (D,F,S) P Burgoyne 8-8-7	P McCabe (3)	95
10	(10)	5/0	TALOS 18 (F,S) D Moffatt 7-8-6	Darren Moffatt (3)	—
11	(15)	0000	FABULOUS MTOTO 9 (G) M Saunders 5-8-4	J F Egan	—
12	(8)	6051	COLERIDGE 16 (B,D,F,G,S) J Sheehan 7-8-1	J Quinn	95
13	(18)	6051	SALSKA 26 (G) A Streeter 4-8-1	A Mackay	93
14	(19)	0000	STAR PLAYER 13 (D,F,G) R Baker 9-8-0	A McGlone	95
15	(16)	3033	CHAKALAK 24 (D,F,G) S Dow 7-8-0	A Daly (7)	94
16	(1)	3-65	SOPHISM 124 M Pipe 6-7-12	D Wright (3)	90
17	(9)	6321	GREAT ORATION 67 (D,F) F Watson 6-7-9	L Charnock	87
18	(11)	/00	CHAMPAGNE GOLD 18 (F,G,S) J McConnochie 8-7-8	T Williams	—
19	(6)	0640	HEAD TURNER 13 (D,G,S) C Wildman 7-7-8	J Lowe	92
20	(20)	0000	FRUITFUL AFFAIR 21 (F,G) T Thomson Jones 6-7-8	S Davies	87

11-2 Sea Victor, 6-1 Thunderheart, 7-1 Moshaajir, 8-1 Matamoros, Chakalak, 10-1 Great Oration, Coleridge, 12-1 Sophism, 14-1 others.

3.00 ST ANNS MAIDEN STAKES
(Div I: £4,103: 1m 6f 15yd) (11)

1	(9)	3	BLUSSEY 21 R Akehurst 3-8-7	S Sanders	[illegible]
2	(3)	4-	FORTUNES COURSE 150J J King 6-9-2	A Mackay	—
3	(2)	0	CIRACUSA 9 J Mackie 3-8-12	N Varley (3)	—
4	(11)	544	EUROLINK SHADOW 100 L Cumani 3-8-12	J Weaver	90
5	(4)	0006	EVER FRIENDS 47 R Harris 3-8-12	D Batteate	—
6	(7)	0-05	SOLATIUM 14 M Pipe 3-8-12	A McGlone	87
7	(8)	06	TELMO 14 C Wall 3-8-12	O Urbina	78
8	(5)	25	ANCHORENA 30 R Charlton 3-8-7	W Ryan	96
9	(1)	3343	REMONTANT 27 R Hollinshead 3-8-7	F Lynch (7)	88
10	(10)	6050	SUJUD 23 H Thomson Jones 3-8-7	G Carter	87
11	(6)	6	WOODMANS LADY 9 J Sheehan 3-8-7	J Quinn	—

2-1 Anchorena, 3-1 Eurolink Shadow, 7-2 Blussey, 8-1 Fortunes Course, 10-1 Telmo, 12-1 Ever Friends, 16-1 others.

3.30 ST ANNS MAIDEN STAKES
(Div II: £3,980: 1m 6f 15yd) (10)

1	(1)	0-00	BALLAD RULER 24 P Pritchard 9-9-7	Jo Hunnam (7)	—
2	(9)	0-00	FAIR AND FANCY 14 D Nicholls 4-9-7	Alex Greaves	—
3	(3)	3304	GINGER JIM 7J P Hedger 4-9-7	N Varley (3)	87
4	(4)	4-36	KARTTIKEYA 64 Mrs N Macauley 4-9-7	J Weaver	[illegible]
5	(7)	3-00	MAMNOON 26 (V) W Clay 4-9-7	J Carroll	82
6	(2)	0062	OPERA BUFF 22 Miss G Kelleway 4-9-7	A Whelan (5)	80
7	(10)	0-00	ROYRACE 10 W Brisbourne 3-8-12	S Maloney	—
8	(6)	0600	COLLEGE NIGHT 23 C Dwyer 3-8-7	P McCabe (3)	85
9	(5)	55	KATIE OLIVER 21 B Smart 3-8-7	R Cochrane	98
10	(8)	2443	PAMPAS BREEZE 21 W Jarvis 3-8-7	W Woods	88

5-4 Pampas Breeze, 11-4 Opera Buff, 6-1 Katie Oliver, 7-1 Karttikeya, 10-1 Ginger Jim, 12-1 College Night, 16-1 others.

4.00 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND MAIDEN STAKES
(2-Y-O: £5,311: 1m 54yd) (19)

1	(19)		BALIOS M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	—
2	(7)	0	BLUEBEARD 12 (V) J Gosden 9-0	J Carroll	—
3	(3)		CHARMING ADMIRAL C Wall 9-0	G Duffield	—
4	(18)	0	DASHING INVADER 22 P Harris 9-0	J Quinn	—
5	(11)		DUSHYANTOR H Cecil 9-0	W Ryan	—
6	(6)		ERBUR N Graham 9-0	A McGlone	—
7	(16)	0	FLY FISHING 36 Mrs J Cecil 9-0	R Cochrane	80
8	(10)	00	FOGGIE 38 P Calver 9-0	M Birch	—
9	(14)	060	INFLUENCE PEDLER 17 C Brittain 9-0	W Woods	90
10	(9)		OLD IRISH L Cumani 9-0	O Urbina	—
11	(8)		PEARL ANNIVERSARY M Johnston 9-0	T Williams	—
12	(13)	8	PREMIER GENERATION 20 D Arbuthnot 9-0	A Clark	78
13	(15)	0066	RICHARD HOUSE LAD 87 R Hollinshead 9-0	A Culhane	78
14	(4)	00	TABLETS OF STONE 71 J Bosley 9-0	C Rutter	—
15	(17)	3	ALTAMURA 20 J Gosden 8-9	A Garth	[illegible]
16	(12)	0	CARIBBEAN DANCER 16 M Stoute 8-9	P Robinson	88
17	(2)	50	HOLLOWAY MELODY 58 B McMahon 8-9	L Newton (5)	—
18	(1)		SPINNING MOUSE D Morley 8-9	M Fenton	—
19	(5)	40	THE SWAN 22 J Dunlop 8-9	G Carter	93

4-5 Dushyantor, 4-1 Altamura, 7-1 Old Irish, 8-1 Balios, 12-1 The Swan, 14-1 Bluebeard, 16-1 others.

4.30 RAINWORTH CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,519: 1m 54yd) (20)

1	(19)	3164	HIGH PREMIUM 14 (D,F,G) R Fahey 7-9-7	A Culhane	96
2	(3)	0-00	NORTH ESK 29 (D,F,S) C Dwyer 6-9-7	L Newton (5)	—
3	(7)	-409	PRUSSIAN FLAG 79 (G) R Hannon 3-9-4	G Carter	98
4	(1)	0003	DARING RYDE 9 (D,S) J Smith 4-9-3	G Duffield	87
5	(15)	0000	KINGCHIP BOY 12 (V,D,F,G) M Ryan 6-8-13	D Gibbs (5)	91
6	(2)	0505	DOODIES POOL 20 (D,G) P Burgoyne 5-8-11	P McCabe (3)	74
7	(6)	2900	SEA SPOUSE 9 (G) M Blanshard 4-8-11	J Quinn	68
8	(11)	2500	BATTLE COLOURS 9 (D,F,G) E Incisa 6-8-9	Kim Tinkler	84
9	(12)	2620	BOLD ANGEL 18 (C,F,G,S) M H Easterby 8-8-9	M Birch	[illegible]
10	(14)	1460	CARE AND COMFORT 93 (D,F) K McAuliffe 3-8-9	R Cochrane	84
11	(6)	0400	WATERLORD 26 (D,S) D Nicholls 5-8-9	Alex Greaves	87
12	(18)	6000	SAINT AMIGO 17 (G) J Eyre 3-8-8	W Ryan	83
13	(8)	/00	THE DEACONESS 30 Mrs A King 4-8-6	A Garth	68
14	(17)	0026	GENTLE IRONY 5 (B,CD,F,G,S) B Meehan 3-8-7	J F Egan	83
15	(10)	2040	LOVE LEGEND 9 (F,G,S) D Arbuthnot 10-8-5	A Clark	81
16	(9)	3600	RESOLUTE BAY 26 (V,D,F,G) R Whitaker 9-8-5	J Lowe	71
17	(13)	8300	ROSEATE LODGE 30 (D,F,S) N Bycroft 9-8-5	K Fallon	84
18	(20)	1000	HUNZA STORY 9 (F) N Littmoden 3-8-1	Jo Hunnam (7)	72
19	(16)	6006	MAGICATION 22 (F,G) C Allen 5-8-0	P Robinson	63
20	(4)	0040	SWYNFORD FLYER 53 (D,F,G) J A Harris 6-8-0	Darren Moffatt (3)	82

7-1 High Premium, 8-1 Bold Angel, Prussian Flag, 9-1 Swynford Flyer, 10-1 Love Legend, Doodies Pool, Waterlord, Care And Comfort, 12-1 others.

5.00 GAMSTON HANDICAP
(£4,695: 1m 54yd) (20)

1	(4)	5500	NIZAAL 12 (G,S) D Nicholls 4-10-0	Alex Greaves	88
2	(3)	2530	SAMBA SHARPLY 26 (CD,F,S) A Hide 4-9-13	W Woods	95
3	(9)	-050	EVER SO LYRICAL 12 (D,F,G) P Harris 5-9-9	G Duffield	91
4	(11)	0460	FAIRY KNIGHT 35 (B,F) R Hannon 3-9-7	J F Egan	98
5	(5)	2000	GREATEST 18 (D,F,G) R Akehurst 4-9-6	S Sanders	94
6	(20)	6303	MOWLAIE 36 (F) D Chapman 4-9-6	A Culhane	94
7	(16)	2400	MISTER FIRE EYES 19 (F,G,S) C Brittain 3-9-6	M Birch	97
8	(18)	3606	DON PEPE 33 (F,G) R Boss 4-9-6	W Ryan	93
9	(6)	4500	ROBSERA 16 (D,F) G Lewis 4-9-5	A Whelan (5)	83
10	(14)	5040	JUST HARRY 12 (CD,F,G) M Ryan 4-9-3	D Gibbs (5)	97
11	(19)	1065	ROI DE LA MER 22 (D,G) J Akehurst 4-9-3	G Carter	94
12	(15)	1201	BENTICO 10 (D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 6-9-3 (5ex)	J Weaver	87
13	(12)	3500	FORZAIR 17 S Bowring 3-9-2	C Teague (5)	95
14	(13)	7100	PRUDENT PET 8 (D,F,G) C Fairhurst 3-8-13	P McCabe (3)	97
15	(10)	25-0	FAILTE RO 29 (G) J Banks 3-8-13	J Quinn	88
16	(7)	3120	DUELLO 12 (D,S) M Blanshard 4-8-13	R Cochrane	95
17	(17)	2-00	OCEAN PARK 30 Lady Herries 4-8-13	P Robinson	91
18	(2)	6060	CHILDREN'S CHOICE 103 (F,S) P McBride 4-8-13	J Lowe	91
19	(8)	4530	YOUNG BENSON 42 B McMahon 3-8-13	L Newton (5)	[illegible]
20	(1)	2443	MICHELLISA 10 (F) J Bethell 4-8-11	K Fallon	95

11-2 Bentico, 6-1 Greatest, 7-1 Roi De La Mer, 8-1 Mister Fire Eyes, Robsera, 10-1 Samba Sharply, Ocean Park, 12-1 Ever So Lyrical, 14-1 others.

5.30 HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES
(£3,225: 2-Y-O: 1m 1f 213yd) (14)

1	(7)	0	BACKTIARI 9 S Bowring 9-0	C Rutter	—
2	(11)		BRIGHTER BYFAAH N Graham 9-0	W Ryan	—
3	(14)	00	GENERAL GLOW 35 N Bycroft 9-0	G Carter	78
4	(8)	0	JUMP THE LIGHTS 45 S Woods 9-0	W Woods	70
5	(4)	3	NORTHERN SOUL 15 M Johnston 9-0	T Williams	98
6	(6)	06	NOT QUITE GREY 44 K McAuliffe 9-0	R Cochrane	95
7	(9)	6000	REEF RAIDER 24 (B) N Tinkler 9-0	Kim Tinkler	74
8	(3)	502	SHARP SHUFFLE 7 R Hannon 9-0	J F Egan	[illegible]
9	(1)	36	SOVIET KING 24 P Mitchell 9-0	R Woodworth	95
10	(5)	54	SPRING CAMPAIGN 15 M Pipe 9-0	A McGlone	97
11	(10)	00	UNDERSTON 35 L Cumani 9-0	O Urbina	84
12	(2)	0006	WHAT JIM WANTS 8 J O'Neill 9-0	J Carroll	74
13	(12)	00	DOUBLE CHECK 6 M Johnston 9-0	J Weaver	74
14	(13)	5284	ROSE OF SIBERIA 30 M Bell 8-9	M Fenton	—

11-4 Northern Soul, 7-2 Rose Of Siberia, 9-2 Spring Campaign, 5-1 Sharp Shuffle, 8-1 Not Quite Grey, Underston, 10-1 Soviet King, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Gosden, 13 winners from 35 runners, 37.1%; H Cecil, 26 from 73, 35.6%; L Cumani, 9 from 30, 30.0%; R Charlton, 9 from 31, 29.0%; J Banks, 3 from 12, 25.0%; Mrs J Cecil, 5 from 25, 20.0%.

JOCKEYS: J Reid, 3 winners from 21 rides, 14.3%; P Robinson, 11 from 84, 13.1%; W Ryan, 21 from 164, 12.8%; A Culhane, 6 from 50, 12.0%; R Cochrane, 11 from 98, 11.2%; J Weaver, 8 from 73, 11.0%.

☐ Tom Jones, the Newmarket trainer, made it 11 Yarmouth winners this year with a near 12-1 double with Neuwest and Tamhid yesterday. Both are owned by Hamdan al-Maktoum and were ridden by Richard Hills, who was taking his seasonal tally to 60.

[illegible] الأهرام

Abiding appeal of local boy turned National hero

BY JACK WATERMAN

NOT only the world of racing will be mourning Red Rum today. For his titanic, record-breaking exploits at Aintree when he won three Grand Nationals and was twice runner-up, the entire nation took this wonderful horse to its heart. But on retirement more than 17 years ago, far from fading from public consciousness "Rummy", as he had become known, even grew in his stature as the embodiment of a sporting superstar.

In his latterday career, travelling the country, opening betting shops and hotels, gracing garden fetes and parties.

On Merseyside, traffic would be seized solid from the Pier Head to Lime Street station as the crowds took to the streets to welcome their very own hero. At Red Rum's former Southport home, behind the used-car salerooms belonging to his trainer, Ginger McCain, unscheduled coach-loads of visitors regularly turned up and made his old whitewashed box an unlikely shrine for homage.

And after moving to new quarters in Cheshire, his attraction for the public was such that the local hotel has done booming business. In May this year came his thirtieth birthday. Greetings cards and packets of Polo mints (his favourite delicacy) came by the score and Red Rum attended a special meeting at Aintree in his honour.

In the corporate psyche of the racing public there is a deep sentimental need for equine idols to transcend by deed and spectacle the mere transaction of bets. In a quite outstanding way Red Rum fulfilled this role.

He was originally bought for a mere 400 guineas by Tim Molony, the late, great jumps jockey, by then a trainer. In his first Flat race, at Aintree in 1967, he dead-heated for first place. But he won only once more that season.

The beginning of his jumps career was even less spectacular. He went to the late Mrs Lurline Brotherton and her Yorkshire trainer, Robert Renton, famous for their National victory with Freebooter in 1950. But in 1969-70, Red Rum ran 14 times without winning. Other trainers took over. Then came further reverses, and worse, a persistent lameness.

The turning-point came when Ginger McCain, then driving a taxi as well as training, talked Noel Le Mare into an interest in Red Rum and paid Mrs Brotherton 6,000 guineas for him. The sea at Southport cured his lameness and the rest is glorious Grand National history: his incredible defeat of Crisp in a heart-stopping finish in 1973; his victory under a punishing top weight the following year; gallant runner-up in the next two seasons; finally in 1977 his amazing third triumph, a National feat never before achieved.

That was the pinnacle. But the Grand National aside, Red Rum won on no fewer than 21 other occasions. Appropriately his final resting place will be at Aintree and equally appropriately, tributes to him flooded in yesterday.

Tommy Stack, his successful rider in 1977, said: "Rummy was the best advertisement for racing anyone could imagine. I'm sad to hear the news and particularly sad for Ginger McCain. The National was a great occasion for me because he was already an Aintree legend when I rode him."

Lester Piggott, who was twice placed on Red Rum on the Flat, said: "He was a racing institution and stayed in our yard on more than one occasion when he had been down to open betting shops in the area. It is a very sad loss."

Finally, his trainer, Ginger McCain, for whom Rummy's death, full of years as he was, will be a grievous blow: "It wasn't just his five Grand Nationals, he won the Scottish National and was a short-head second in the Hennessy. He was a tremendous old competitor but much more than that, he switched on the Blackpool lights and was Chieftain of Honour at the Highland Games: a very remarkable old horse — and seriously magical."

Red Rum jumps the last clear of L'Escargot in the 1974 Grand National, the second of his three legendary Aintree triumphs

THUNDERER

2.05 Jolto
2.40 Seasonal Splendour
3.10 Busy Flight
3.40 NO EXTRAS (nap)
4.10 Punkah
4.40 Main Offender
5.10 Sheer Danzig
5.40 Devon Peasant

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.40 Istabraq. 4.40 QUESTRILL (nap).

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form. (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.05 VODAFONE BRITISH AND NORTHERN RACING SCHOOLS APPRENTICE HANDICAP (£3,476: 7f str) (27 runners) BBC1

101	(2)	108103	JOLTO 82 (CD,F,G,S) [illegible] 5-8-12	C Teague	99
102	(5)	000246	LEIGH CROFTER 8 (B,C,D,F,G,S) (P Dimmock) P Cundell 6-9-7	N Lovelock (7)	96
103	(18)	050002	BARREL OF HOPE 12 (B,D,G) (P Watson) J Eyre 3-9-4	D Sweeney (4)	98
104	(23)	3353-0	KEY PITCH 98 (V) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 3-9-4	J Wilkinson	88
105	(27)	500008	LYNTON LAD 12 (B,G) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 3-9-4	S Copp	97
106	(15)	022320	MR NEVERMIND 71 (D,F,G) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-9-2	L Suthern	90
107	(7)	123000	SCHARNHORST 19 (D,F,G) (Mackenzie Print) S Dow 3-9-2	P Brookwood (7)	92
108	(13)	3/2046-0	TOWER GREEN 81 (D Blacker) Lady Herries 4-9-2	R Smith (7)	98
109	(4)	6-00010	THUNDER RIVER 27 (D,F,G) (T Lacock) M Heaton-Ellis 5-9-0	S Drowne	93
110	(8)	526004	SYLVANDRA 17 (G) (Mrs P Wyatt) P Murphy 3-8-13	R Waterfield	[illegible]
111	(1)	483050	CANARY FALCON 22 (D,G) (Mrs N Aqil) John Berry 4-8-11	C Webb	89
112	(3)	2523-00	CAUSLEY 9 (D,F,G,S) (P West) D Burchell 10-8-11	K Sked (4)	86
113	(10)	0-504	ZATOPEK 134 (G Howard-Spink) R Hannon 3-8-11	Mark Denaro	90
114	(19)	343180	STAR OF GOLD 16 (D,F) (Normanby Stud Ltd) C Egerton 3-8-10	R Havlin	96
115	(14)	412004	PRESENT SITUATION 29 (D,G) (C van Hoorn) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-7	G Mitchell	91
116	(17)	04600	SWEET ALLEGIANCE 10 (The In-House Partnership) J Poulton 5-8-5	T Field (7)	90
117	(15)	250884	CHILI HEIGHTS 9 (V,C,D,G,S) (B Attenborough) G Balding 5-8-5	D Griffiths	95
118	(11)	344054	BLUSHING GRENADIER 9 (V,G) (Ecurie Fags) M Fetherston-Godley 3-8-1	M Baird	95
119	(9)	000506	CHOCOLATE CHARLIE 24 (V) (R Waters) R Charlton 4-8-1	R Brisland (7)	97
120	(12)	05-0060	EBONY BLAZE 19 (Le Club (Racing)) C Wildman 4-8-0	R Mullen (4)	92
121	(20)	0400	MARWELL INDIGO 21 (Viscountess Kelburn) P Cundell 3-7-13	D Denby	93
122	(22)	205440	SOBELOVED 45 (M Lawrance) N Berry 3-7-8	Kimberley Hart	96
123	(25)	0-00033	RACING TELEGRAPH 36 (G) (C Woof) J Payne 5-7-7	Iona Wands	93
124	(8)	060006	MUTINIQUE 16 (D,S) (Mrs M Bell) B Pearce 4-7-7	P Fessey	90
125	(24)	1-00500	REAL MADRID 16 (V,G) (C Wall) G Enright 4-7-7	P Doe (4)	90
126	(21)	300400	NUTHATCH 3 (Clarissa Sweet) M Usher 8-7-7	Rhona Gent (7)	85
127	(26)	300/000-	PEGGOTTY 427 (P Hayward) P Hayward 7-7-7	P Cody-Boutcher (7)	—

Long handicap: Mutinique 7-6, Real Madrid 6-13, Nuthatch 6-10, Peggotty 6-8.

BETTING: 8-1 Barrel Of Hope, 9-1 Present Situation, 10-1 Jolto, 12-1 Thunder River, Mr Nevermind, 14-1 Chili Heights, Leigh Crofter, Sylvandra, Zatopek, 16-1 others.

1994: JOLTO 5-8-2 C Teague (12-1) K Cunningham-Brown 27 ran.

FORM FOCUS

LEIGH CROFTER best recent effort 1½l 2nd of 23 to Followmegirls in handicap at Leicester (5f, soft). BARREL OF HOPE 1¼l 2nd of 23 to Comanche Companion in handicap at York (7f, good) with JOLTO (3lb better off) 1½l 3rd. MR NEVERMIND 1½l 2nd of 9 to Noxsong in handicap at Lingfield (7f 140yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. THUNDER RIVER beat Benfico neck in 19-runner apprentices handicap at Yarmouth (7f, good) on penultimate start, with RACING TELEGRAPH (3lb better off) 1¾l 3rd.
SYLVANDRA 6¾l 4th of 16 to Fantasy Racing in claimer at Pontefract (6f, good to firm). ZATOPEK about 4½l 4th of 12 to Sharp Rebuff in handicap at Warwick (1m, good). STAR OF GOLD best recent effort beat Gymcrak Flyer neck in 7-runner conditions race at Leicester (7f, good to firm). PRESENT SITUATION 4¾l 4th of 18 to Jo Maximus in handicap at Brighton (6f 209yd, good). CHILI HEIGHTS 4¼l 4th of 12 to Jibereen in handicap at Chepstow (7f 16yd, good to soft). BLUSHING GRENADIER 3¼l 4th of 20 to Nashaat in selling handicap at Leicester (7f 9yd, good). MUTINIQUE 8¼l 6th of 11 to Crystal Heights in limited stakes at Brighton (6f 209yd, good).
Selection: JOLTO

2.40 VODAFONE GROUP HANDICAP BBC1

(£6,177: 2m) (11 runners)

201	(5)	2-14800	SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 19 (F) (D Johnson) M Pipe 5-9-12	T Quinn	95
202	(1)	0-31030	PURPLE SPLASH 33 (V,G,S) (C Wallord) P Makin 5-9-4	W R Swinburn	97
203	(11)	/1/50	BEAN KING 13 (F,G,S) (J Stone) Mrs J Cecil 9-8-13	T Ives	98
204	(4)	00100-0	SWEET GLOW 121 (F,G) (Mrs M Fairbairn) M Pipe 8-8-12	M Roberts	92
205	(8)	021210	ISTABRAQ 26 (BF,F,G) (H Al Maktoum) J Gosden 3-8-10	W Carson	95
206	(6)	325524	PARADISE NAVY 17 (G) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 6-8-7	R Hughes	96
207	(10)	2100	UNITED FRONT 10 (F) (T Beresford) R O'Sullivan 3-8-5	D Biggs	96
208	(3)	025100	TURQUOISE SEA 13 (G) (Exors of Mrs E Ogden White) J Dunlop 3-8-3	K Darley	[illegible]
209	(7)	093012	GREYCOAT BOY 13 (B,F) (N Rimington) B Meehan 3-7-9	N Carlisle	97
210	(9)	513340	EAU DE COLOGNE 12 (F) (G Reed) C Thornton 3-7-7	G Bardwell	98
211	(2)	502318	EN VACANCES 29 (D,S) (Lambourn Valley Racing) A Foster 3-7-7	T Sprake	96

BETTING: 5-2 Istabraq, 7-2 Seasonal Splendour, 5-1 Greycoat Boy, 6-1 Paradise Navy, 10-1 Sweet Glow, 12-1 Turquoise Sea, Purple Splash, 14-1 others.

1994: FATACK 5-7-9 J Quinn (12-1) Miss J Doyle 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

SEASONAL SPLENDOUR (later disqualified and placed last) beat Kristal's Paradise (later promoted to 1st place) 1¾l in 7-runner handicap at Goodwood (2m, good). PURPLE SPLASH 1¼l 3rd of 10 to Lear Dancer in handicap at Goodwood (2m, good) on penultimate start. BEAN KING 8l 5th of 11 to Unchanged in handicap at Chester (1m 7f 195yd, good to soft).
ISTABRAQ beat Boundary Express 2½l in 20-runner handicap at Ayr (1m 7f, good) with EAU DE COLOGNE (12lb better off) 5l and neck 4th and GREYCOAT BOY (4lb better off) 19½l 12th. PARADISE NAVY about 1¾l 4th of 20 to Arian Spirit in handicap at Pontefract (2m 1f, good to firm). UNITED FRON best effort beat Haleks 1l in 8-runner maiden at Redcar (1m 2f, firm). TURQUOISE SEA best recent effort beat Good Hand 4l in 14-runner handicap at Ayr (2m 1f 105yd, good). GREYCOAT BOY short-head 2nd of 12 to Meant To Be in handicap at Ascot (2m, soft) with TURQUOISE SEA (7lb better off) 26l 7th and BEAN KING (8lb better off) 10l 11th.
EN VACANCES beat Amiarge 1¼l in 20-runner handicap at Nottingham (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: SEASONAL SPLENDOUR

3.10 VODAFONE HORRIS HILL STAKES BBC1

(Group III: 2-Y-O colts and geldings: £21,840: 7f 64yd rnd) (9 runners)

301	(6)	32111	BRANDON MAGIC 12 (D,G,S) (R Mickelson) I Balding 8-9	K Darley	94
302	(8)	02	BUSY FLIGHT 34 (S Wingfield Digby) B Hills 8-9	M Hills	85
303	(7)	1	CENTRE STALLS 22 (D,S) (A Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 8-9	J Reid	82
304	(1)	214011	KING OF PERU 19 (F,G) (L Fust) A Jarvis 8-9	J Tate	95
305	(4)	-421	LOMBERTO 35 (D,S) (S Al Homaizi) R Hannon 8-9	R Hughes	82
306	(2)	1	NADOR 23 (G,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) D Loder 8-9	W R Swinburn	87
307	(3)	0121	QUAKERS FIELD 20 (D,F,G) (Pennine Partners) G L Moore 8-9	S Whitworth	88
308	(5)	0541	SKETCHBOOK 28 (G) (Highclere Racing Ltd) G Lewis 8-9	Paul Eddery	82
309	(9)	24122	TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 20 (BF,F) (Tumbleweed Pairs) B Meehan 8-9	B Doyle	[illegible]

BETTING: 5-2 Brandon Magic, 3-1 Tumbleweed Ridge, 6-1 Busy Flight, Centre Stalls, 7-1 Nador, 8-1 Lomberto, 10-1 Sketchbook, 12-1 others.

1994: PAINTER'S ROW 8-12 J Reid (7-2) P Chapple-Hyam 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

BRANDON MAGIC beat Harry The Fifth neck in 4-runner conditions race at Ascot (7f, soft). BUSY FLIGHT ¾l 2nd of 8 to Mick's Love in conditions race at Newbury (1m, good to soft). CENTRE STALLS beat Crazy Chief 3½l in 13-runner maiden at Salisbury (7f, good to soft). KING OF PERU beat Amber Fort 2½l in 15-runner nursery at Newmarket (6f, good to firm).
LOMBERTO beat Sunley Secure 3½l in 9-runner maiden at Sandown (7f, good to soft). NADOR beat Threesome 3l in 7-runner maiden at Brighton (7f, good). QUAKERS FIELD beat Asadi head in 11-runner auction race at Goodwood (7f, good). SKETCHBOOK beat Priolo Prima 2½l in 12-runner maiden at Pontefract (6f, good). TUMBLEWEED RIDGE 1½l 2nd of 8 to Even Top in listed race at Newmarket (7f, good). Previously finished head 2nd of 5 to Royal Applause in group II Gimcrack Stakes at York (6f, good to firm).
Selection: TUMBLEWEED RIDGE

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
P Cundell	3	12	25.0	W Carson	40	243	16.5
J Gosden	34	141	24.1	J Reid	43	268	16.0
H Cecil	17	89	19.8	W R Swinburn	24	184	13.0
Lady Herries	7	39	17.9	S Drowne	3	23	13.0
R Charlton	18	120	15.0	D Harrison	14	111	12.6
G Lewis	10	74	13.5	G Hind	3	25	12.0
H Thomson Jones	3	26	11.5	M Roberts	29	257	11.3

Blinkered first time

HEREFORD: 3.20 Jon's Choice. NEWBURY: 2.05 Chocolate Charlie, Blushing Grenadier, Lynton Lad. NOTTINGHAM: 2.00 Silk Cottage, Tael Of Silver. 2.30 Matamoros. 3.30 Mamnoon. 4.00 Bluebeard. 5.00 Fairy Knight. 5.30 Reef Raider.

3.40 GARDNER MERCHANT RATED HANDICAP BBC1

(£8,739: 6f 8yd) (16 runners)

401	(15)	0-13446	MONTENDRE 25 (CD,F,G) (D Hart) M McCormack 8-9-7	J Reid	93
402	(3)	424010	CARRANITA 25 (D,G,S) (Lamb Lane Associates) B Palling 5-9-5	T Sprake	91
403	(16)	610610	BUNTY BOO 16 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs R Naylor) R Hannon 6-9-4	Dane O'Neill (5)	95
404	(11)	115560	EL YASAF 5 (F,G,S) (Old School House Racing Ltd) C Allen 7-9-1	T Ives	88
405	(9)	514203	NO EXTRAS 12 (D,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-8-13	S Whitworth	98
406	(12)	252303	ALZIANAH 24 (D,BF,G,S) (Sheikh Amin Dahlawi) J Bethell 4-8-10	W Carson	98
407	(1)	026800	GREEN PERFUME 41 (D,F,G) (Lord Sondes) P Cole 3-8-8	T Quinn	96
408	(2)	00-0111	SPANIARDS CLOSE 26 (D,G,S) (Avon Industries Ltd) P Makin 7-8-7	M Roberts	[illegible]
409	(8)	000213	CYRANO'S LAD 14 (G) (M Foulger) C Dwyer 6-8-7	C Dwyer	95
410	(10)	1-51006	ASTRAC 20 (D,F,G,S) (C Titcomb) R Akehurst 4-8-7	T Ashley (7)	93
411	(4)	01400-6	ORANGE PLACE 14 (G,S) (G Archer) T Naughton 4-8-7	J D Smith (5)	81
412	(7)	0-21500	DOMULLA 125 (D,G,S) (A Boon) R Akehurst 5-8-7	D Griffiths (5)	81
413	(14)	0-53800	TABOOK 19 (D,F,G) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-7	M Henry (5)	86
414	(5)	002005	BOLD EFFORT 12 (D,F,G) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 3-8-6	K Darley	98
415	(6)	006254	LENNOX LEWIS 34 (D,F) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 3-8-5	J Tate	98
416	(13)	268310	BOWDEN ROSE 12 (B,D,F,G) (Lower Bowden) M Blanshard 3-8-5	Martin Dwyer (7)	89

Long handicap: Spaniards Close 8-6, Cyrano's Lad 8-4, Astrac 8-3, Orange Place 7-13, Domulla 7-13, Tabook 7-13, Bowden Rose 7-8.

BETTING: 9-2 No Extras, 11-2 Spaniards Close, 7-1 Montendre, 8-1 Astrac, Bold Effort, 10-1 Alzianah, 12-1 Cyrano's Lad, 14-1 Carranita, Lennox Lewis, 16-1 Domulla, 20-1 others.

1994: BRANSTON ABBY 5-8-10 J Reid (8-1) M Johnston 15 ran

FORM FOCUS

MONTENDRE about 1l 6th of 15 to Cool Jazz in group III Diadem Stakes at Ascot (6f, soft) with CARRANITA (1lb worse off) 11l 11th. CARRANITA beat Katya 3l in conditions race at Yarmouth (6f, good). BUNTY BOO beat Petite Fantasy 1l in group III Anheuser Guinness Flying Five Stakes at Leopardstown (5f, good to firm) on penultimate start. NO EXTRAS 3½l 8th to Night Dance in handicap at Ascot (7f, good) on penultimate start. BOLD EFFORT about 4½l 5th of 23 to Double Bounce in handicap at York (6f, good). LENNOX LEWIS best recent effort 2½l 2nd to Double Blue in handicap at Ripon (6f, good to firm). BOWDEN ROSE beat Domicksky 2l in handicap at Brighton (5f 59yd, good) on penultimate start.
Selection: MONTENDRE (nap)

4.10 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND THEALE MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,890: 6f 8yd) (20 runners)

501	(2)	0	CONDOR RIDGE 21 (R Michel) B Meehan 9-0	B Doyle	—
502	(4)	22	CRAZY CHIEF 22 (BF) (D Simpson) P Cole 9-0	T Quinn	[illegible]
503	(18)		FLYING HAROLD (M Allen) M Channon 9-0	R Hughes	—
504	(7)		HERODIAN (Hesmonds Stud) J Gosden 9-0	W R Swinburn	—
505	(3)	0	JONA HOLLEY 22 (I Balding) I Balding 9-0	K Darley	—
506	(6)	00	MAPLE BURL 20 (G Steinberg) S Dow 9-0	J Williams	76
507	(19)		MARAWIS (H Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 9-0	R Hills	—
508	(17)		NAKED EMPEROR (Most Welcome Pnrs) M Fetherston-Godley 9-0	Dale Gibson	—
509	(13)	5	OLD HAT 13 (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) R Hannon 9-0	M Roberts	88
510	(15)		PIVOTAL (Cheveley Park Stud) M Prescott 9-0	C Nutter	—
511	(10)	0	PLEADING 33 (S Broke) H Candy 9-0	W Newnes	—
512	(11)	5	PUNKAH 22 (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 9-0	D Harrison	95
513	(9)		BELLA'S LEGACY (R Hodges) R Hodges 8-9	T Sprake	—
514	(12)		CATCH THE LIGHTS (T Johnsey) R Hannon 8-9	J Reid	—
515	(1)	0	FIONA SHANN 19 (Exors of Mrs E Ogden White) J Dunlop 8-9	W Carson	85
516	(14)		FLY TIP (D McDowell) B Hills 8-9	M Hills	—
517	(5)		LAST BUT NOT LEAST (K Wills) R Johnson Houghton 8-9	R Perham	—
518	(8)	05	LITTLE MILLIE 9 (T Pearce) P Hayward 8-9	P Fessey (5)	90
519	(16)	03	MAGIC MELODY 26 (Mrs M Olden) J Spearing 8-9	S Drowne (3)	91
520	(20)		ROCK DAISY (L Tarrant) B Meehan 8-9	Paul Eddery	—

BETTING: 9-4 Crazy Chief, 5-1 Herodian, 6-1 Punkah, 8-1 Fiona Shann, 10-1 Pleading, 12-1 others.

1994: DIDINA 8-9 Pat Eddery (13-8 fav) R Charlton 21 ran

4.40 ROSALIE MONBIOT BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES

(Div I: 3-Y-O: £3,841: 1m 2f 6yd) (13 runners)

601	(8)	4-533	MAIN OFFENDER 143 (BF) (L Marinopoulos) H Cecil 9-0	S D Williams	98
602	(7)	3424	MR MEDLEY 18 (Barouche Stud Ltd) R Hannon 9-0	M Tebbutt	98
603	(12)		PALACE GUARD (C Wall) G Enright 9-0	N Adams	—
604	(9)	0-	POINTER 408 (In For The Crack) Mrs P Dutfield 9-0	J Williams	—
605	(11)	30	ROUSSI 8 (Mana Al Maktoum) M Stoute 9-0	K Bradshaw	91
606	(10)	23235	SECRET SPRING 34 (BF) (O Waller) R Charlton 9-0	S Raymont	98
607	(4)	530403	BINT ZAMAYEM 14 (Sir Eric Parker) B Hills 8-9	R Perham	[illegible]
608	(13)	00	BRICK COURT 14 (R Johnson Houghton) R Johnson Houghton 8-9	R Price	78
609	(6)	0	JUSTFORTHERECORD 34 (Mrs S Joint) B Millman 8-9	C Nutter	—
610	(3)	6	PERSIAN FLOWER 70 (Ettore Landi) G Bravery 8-9	N Carlisle	71
611	(1)	4-	QUESTRILL 371 (K Abdulla) J Gosden 8-9	Dale Gibson	90
612	(5)	650-034	QUILLWORK 20 (G Chrstroni) Mrs J Cecil 8-9	F Norton	91
613	(2)	00	SUN CIRCUS 10 (Mrs R Heathcote) J Spearing 8-9	M Perrett	—

BETTING: 5-2 Main Offender, 3-1 Secret Spring, 5-1 Mr Medley, 7-1 Bint Zamayem, 8-1 Roussi, 10-1 Questrill, 12-1 Quillwork, 14-1 others.

1994: THE FRENCH FRIAR 9-0 M Wigham (14-1) G Balding 22 ran

FORM FOCUS

MAIN OFFENDER 2½l 3rd of 11 to Royal Solo in maiden at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. MR MEDLEY best recent effort about 2¾l 4th of 5 to Monument in maiden at Kempton (1m, good to firm). SECRET SPRING head and 1½l 3rd of 11 to Akayid in maiden at Goodwood (1m 2f, good). BINT ZAMAYEM 10¾l 3rd of 8 to Mutakddim in maiden at York (1m 2f 85yd, good to firm) with BRICK COURT 46¾l 8th. QUESTRILL 7l 4th of 25 to Vettori in maiden at Newmarket (1m, good) Oct 1994. QUILLWORK 9l 3rd of 4 to Vindaloo in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 1m 4f) on penultimate start.
Selection: MAIN OFFENDER

5.10 ROUND OAK HANDICAP

(£6,950: 1m 2f 6yd) (22 runners)

1	(15)	3/60550	RAMBO'S HALL 19 (D,F,G,S) (B Dixon) J Glover 10-9-11	D McKeown	92
2	(7)	001251	SHEER DANZIG 15 (D,G) (R Arculli) R Armstrong 3-9-9	W R Swinburn	97
3	(19)	012340	COUNTRY STAR 13 (D,F) (HRH Prince Fahd Salman) H Candy 4-9-7	R Hills	97
4	(6)	302210	OUT ON A PROMISE 7 (D,F,G) (Mrs H Morriss) G Wragg 3-9-6	M Hills	94
5	(8)	400100	DANEGOLD 25 (V,D,F,G,S) (The Dream Team) M Channon 3-9-5	R Hughes	88
6	(3)	143330	MAJOR CHANGE 20 (F) (Mrs C Powell) R Hannon 3-9-5	Dane O'Neill (5)	93
7	(14)	243300	SWALLOWS DREAM 13 (B,D,F,S) (Windflower Holdings) J Dunlop 4-9-3	W Carson	94
8	(4)	01524-0	TARTAN GEM 19 (G) (Blandford Thoroughbreds) J Toller 4-9-2	K Darley	90
9	(9)	258030	VIRTUAL REALITY 19 (D,F) (Ash Partnership) A Hide 4-9-2	M Tebbutt	94
10	(10)	010350	SILVER GROOM 19 (D,F,S) (Silver Darling Pnrs) R Akehurst 5-9-1	M Henry (5)	93
11	(21)	020500-	SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 166J (F) (Mrs N Dutfield) Mrs P Dutfield 4-8-13	J Williams	—
12	(1)	4-0421	JAGELLON 9 (S) (D Deer) W Muir 4-8-13 (5ex)	J Reid	90
13	(13)	3220	YARROW 23 (BF) (K Abdulla) J Gosden 3-8-12	Paul Eddery	94
14	(20)	043504	QUINTUS DECIMUS 12 (S) (Penllyne Ltd) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-11	D Harrison	91
15	(12)	041	LANCERETTE 17 (F) (Sir John Swaine) N Graham 3-8-9	M Rimmer	90
16	(5)	212053	EXEMPTION 18 (D,F) (T Frost) H Candy 4-8-9	W Newnes	91
17	(2)	01-4061	KINGS ASSEMBLY 136 (D,G,S) (The Eventopolous I) P Harris 3-8-7	G Hind	90
18	(22)	034151	ALJAWAB 9 (D,G,S) (S Khaled) J Dunlop 4-8-6 (5ex)	T Quinn	98
19	(17)	324631	SEVENTEENS LUCKY 12 (B) (D Cameron) Bob Jones 3-8-5	F Norton	[illegible]
20	(11)	0513-13	DOMAPPEL 23 (D,BF,G,S) (M Banks) Mrs J Cecil 3-8-3	J Stack (3)	95
21	(18)	0-03000	KOATHARY 9 (E Gadsden) L Cottrell 4-8-1	Dale Gibson	88
22	(16)	141040	CAMDEN'S RANSOM 143 (C,D,F,G) (E Cobelli) H Rowsell 8-7-11	B Doyle	86

BETTING: 7-1 Aljawab, 8-1 Sheer Danzig, 9-1 Jagellon, 10-1 Out On A Promise, Rambo's Hall, Seventeens Lucky, 12-1 others.

1994: KISSAIR 3-8-4 A Whelan (16-1) G Lewis 18 ran

FORM FOCUS

SHEER DANZIG beat Sadler's Walk 4l in 13-runner handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, good). COUNTRY STAR 15l 7th of 15 to Indigo Time in handicap at Ascot (1m 4f, soft) with SWALLOWS DREAM (1lb better off) head 8th. OUT ON A PROMISE beat Avignon neck in 11-runner conditions race at Doncaster (1m 2f 60yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. DANEGOLD best recent effort beat Noble Sprinter ½l in 12-runner handicap at Sandown (1m, good to soft). MAJOR CHANGE short-head and head 3rd of 5 to Mystic Hill in handicap at Kempton (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. JAGELLON beat Granby Bell ½l in 18-runner handicap at Chepstow (1m 4f 23yd, good to soft). QUINTUS DECIMUS 8½l 4th of 22 to Night Dance in handicap at Ascot (1m, soft). KINGS ASSEMBLY beat Wet Patch head in 19-runner handicap at Leicester (1m 2f, good). ALJAWAB beat Thames Side 1½l in 19-runner handicap at Leicester (1m 1f 218yd, good). DOMAPPEL neck and 1¼l 3rd of 19 to Guesstimation in apprentices handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good) with YARROW (3lb better off) 10¾l 13th.
Selection: SHEER DANZIG

5.40 ROSALIE MONBIOT BIRTHDAY MAIDEN STAKES

(Div II: 3-Y-O: £3,815: 1m 2f 6yd) (13 runners)

1	(8)	45	ALMUHIMM 63 (BF) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 9-0	J Williams	82
2	(3)	5-050	FASIH 52 (BF) (H Al Maktoum) A Stewart 9-0	C Dwyer	77
3	(1)	- 00	HYPERTENSION 34 (Theobalds Stud) R Hannon 9-0	M Tebbutt	82
4	(5)	03	PRINTERS QUILL 24 (Mrs B Woodford) D Chappell 9-0	M Perrett	65
5	(12)	004000-	SILVER SLEEVE 385 (Blandford Thoroughbreds) J Toller 9-0	N Carlisle	72
6	(9)	244-06	SING UP 24 (Unit Partnership) M McCormack 9-0	R Perham	66
7	(6)	0-242	VENICE BEACH 75 (K Abdulla) B Hills 9-0	R Street	82
8	(10)	0	WISE BRAVE 34 (P Wright) H Candy 9-0	N Adams	—
9	(11)	2-000	BAKHETA 22 (Miss L Vollaro) K Ivory 8-9	V Halliday	71
10	(13)		CALGARY GIRL (Mrs B Bishop) P Ritchens 8-9	N Rodgers	—
11	(2)	602	DEVON PEASANT 20 (Mrs B Sumner) L Cottrell 8-9	S Raymont	[illegible]
12	(4)	6	LA ALLA WA ASA 17 (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) J Gosden 8-9	Dale Gibson	78
13	(7)	4-5	RIVAL QUEEN 114 (M Poland) H Cecil 8-9	S D Williams	85

BETTING: 4-1 Devon Peasant, 9-2 Almuhimm, Venice Beach, 7-1 Rival Queen, Fasih, 10-1 Sing Up, La Alla Wa Asa, 12-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING DIVISION

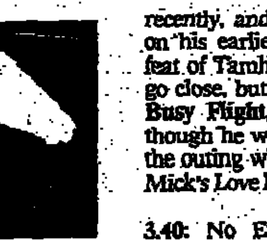
FORM FOCUS

ALMUHIMM 14½l 5th of 7 to Jumairah Sun in maiden at Yarmouth (1m 2f, good to firm). FASIH 7¾l 5th of 8 to Punace in maiden at Pontefract (1m, good to firm) on penultimate start. PRINTERS QUILL 9¾l 3rd of 10 to Prickwillow in maiden at Bath (1m 2f, good to firm). VENICE BEACH 1¼l 2nd of 3 to Never Explain in maiden at Ayr (1m 2f, good to firm). DEVON PEASANT short-head 2nd of 15 to Rosy Hue in maiden at Goodwood (1m 2f, good). LA ALLA WA ASA about 5¼l 6th of 18 to Lancerette in maiden at Pontefract (1m, good to firm). RIVAL QUEEN 13¾l 5th of 10 to Bonne Etoile in maiden at Yarmouth (1m, firm).
Selection: VENICE BEACH

Seasonal Splendour can atone for Goodwood misdemeanour

NEWBURY

BBC1



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.05: Jolto has strong claims judged on his recent York third to Comanche Companion. He was 1½ lengths behind Barrel Of Hope that day, but raced wide from his high draw and should reverse the form on 2lb better terms. However, Chili Heights makes more appeal. He was unable to challenge, having been held up in a slowly run race at Chepstow nine days ago, and has a tremendous chance if returning to the form of his short head second to Safey Ana over course and distance in July. Sylvandra has conditions in her favour for the first time this season and shaped as if retaining her ability when a staying on fourth over six furlongs at Pontefract.

2.40: Seasonal Splendour relished the test of stamina when tried over two miles at Goodwood last month, winning in good style only to be disqualified, having barged her way out of a pocket two furlongs from home. She will take all the beating in her bid to gain compensation. Istabraq, who ran unaccountably badly when favourite for a more competitive race at Ascot, has solid claims judged on his earlier Ayr success and still rates the main danger.

3.10: Tumbleweed Ridge boasts the best form, having been beaten a head by Royal Applause in the Gimcrack at York, but his stamina looked suspect over seven furlongs at Newmarket last month. Brandon Magic was unsuited by the slow early pace when scrambling home at Ascot recently, and is better judged on his earlier impressive defeat of Tamhid. He is sure to go close, but preference is for Busy Flight, who looked as though he would improve for the outing when runner-up to Mick's Love here a month ago.

3.40: No Extras put up a tremendous effort over an inadequate trip at Ascot 12 days ago, finishing strongly to take third. He will be well suited by today's extra furlong, but may just be in the handicapper's grip after a string of fine runs. Alzianah was having her second race in quick succession when disappointing at Hamilton last time and the run is best ignored. She encounters her favoured cut in the ground for the first time this season, and will be hard to beat if recapturing the form of her neck second to Astrac in the Wokingham at Royal Ascot.

ROBERT WRIGHT

Nap: ISTABRAQ
(2.40 Newbury)
Next best: Nador
(3.10 Newbury)

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HEREFORD

THUNDERER

2.20 Bungee Jumper. 2.50 Polden Pride. 3.20 Poetic Fancy. 3.50 Man Of Mystery. 4.20 Captain Khedive. 4.50 Exclusive Edition.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.20 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

(Qualifier: £2,276: 2m 1f) (6 runners)

1	5-13	BONE SETTER 12 (G) S Mellor 5-11-10	Chris Webb (5)
2	-211	BUNGEE JUMPER 14 (B,F) T Forster 5-11-10	J Osborne
3	00-0	KING FOWLER 12 A Williams 5-11-0	Mr A Wintle (7)
4	2-00	SUPREME MUSIC 85 P Nicholls 6-11-0	A P McCoy
5	6PP-	KELLY'S FIDDLE 204 Mrs H Parrott 5-10-9	L Harvey
6	00-	CRANE CRACKER 191 Miss S Wilton 4-10-8	T Eley

4-7 Bungee Jumper, 5-1 Bone Setter, 8-1 Supreme Music, 14-1 Crane Cracker, 20-1 King Fowler, 25-1 Kelly's Fiddle.

2.50 PONTRILAS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

(£2,691: 2m 3f) (6)

1	2111	ZAJIRA 14 (F,G) P Eccles 5-12-0	A Maguire
2	4311	POLDEN PRIDE 21 (F) G Balding 7-11-7	A P McCoy
3	4P04	DAIRA FORT 12 B Buckler 9-10-9	B Powell
4	P-RP	COLONIAL OFFICE 14 Graham Richards 9-10-2	A Thornton
5	31-63	PENARTH 14 (F) R Price 9-10-0	T Jenks
6	P3-0	ON THE TEAR 12 F Lloyd 9-10-0	S McNeill

5-4 Polden Pride, 7-4 Zajira, 5-1 Daira Fort, 16-1 Penarth, 33-1 On The Tear, Colonial Office.

3.20 FOWNHOPE SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,094: 2m 1f) (17)

1	2436	POETIC FANCY 49 (D,F) N Twiston-Davies 4-11-10	C Llewellyn
2	080-	WASSL'S MILLION 191 (C,G) T Morton 9-11-9	J Mogford (7)
3	-460	BACKSTABBER 12 Miss S Wilton 5-11-7	A Maguire
4	P34U	SLIPPERY MAX 6 (V,F,G) R Juckes 11-11-5	G Tormey (3)
5	5206	RUN WITH JOY 16 C Popham 4-11-5	M A Fitzgerald
6	56/	SWISS MOUNTAIN 104F P Bevan 5-11-4	T Eley
7	00-U	AL SKEET 12 (F) R Price 9-11-2	A P McCoy
8	P-45	GOOD FETCH 53F (D,F) J Bennett 4-11-1	L Harvey
9	/P-0	GEORGE LANE 12 F Jordan 7-11-1	J Lodder
10	050-	CASSIO'S BOY 197 (B) R Eckley 4-11-0	W Marston
11	P5-5	POWER SHARE 7 R Simpson 4-10-13	D Gallagher
12	-5/P	JON'S CHOICE 14 (V) B Preece 7-10-11	Gary Lyons
13	52R3	MABTHUL 27 (F) R Juckes 7-10-8	J Railton
14	0/0	KOBYRUN 12 A Williams 9-10-7	Mr A Wintle (7)
15	-528	HARD TO GET 14 (B,D,G) M Barraclough 6-10-3	Ann Stokell
16	PP0F	SYLVAN STARLIGHT 16 (V) J Bradley 5-10-0	R Farrant
17	/0/P	RUST MOOR 73 E Bevan 8-10-0	Mr R Johnson (5)

4-1 Poetic Fancy, 5-1 Power Share, 6-1 Backstabber, 7-1 Mabthul, Run With Joy, 8-1 Hard To Get, 10-1 Slippery Max, 12-1 others.

3.50 HEREFORD HUGH SUMNER CHALLENGE BOWL

(Handicap chase: £3,388: 3m 1f 110yd) (6)

1	0-3P	THE BLUE BOY 19 (B,F,G,S) P Bowen 7-12-0	Mr R Johnson (5)
2	PPF-	MAN OF MYSTERY 196 (CD,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-11	C Llewellyn
3	U2-4	FAR SENOR 15 (D,F,G) K Bailey 9-11-9	T J Murphy (5)
4	4252	KIVETON TYCOON 33 (B,F,G,S) J Glover 6-11-9	M A Fitzgerald
5	515-	DESERT RUN 187 (S) P Nicholls 7-11-0	A P McCoy
6	P-PP	PADDY IN PARIS 6 (F) J Needham 12-10-0	D Gallagher

6-4 Kiveton Tycoon, 5-2 Desert Run, 5-1 Far Senor, 6-1 Man Of Mystery, 8-1 The Blue Boy, 50-1 Paddy In Paris.

4.20 ALLENSMORE NOVICES CHASE

(£2,840: 2m) (4)

1	-1U1	CAPTAIN KHEDIVE 5 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-12	A P McCoy
2	3U/P	GAELIC SUNRISE 14 Lady Susan Brooke 8-11-0	Mr M Jackson
3	0523	HALHAM TARN 6 (S) H Manners 5-10-13	G Brown
4	251-	REVE EN ROSE 143 (F,G) M McMillan 9-10-9	J R Kavanagh

1-5 Captain Khedive, 9-2 Reve En Rose, 20-1 Gaelic Sunrise, Halham Tarn.

4.50 BLANDFORD BETTING HANDICAP HURDLE

(£2,843: 2m 3f 110yd) (5)

1	10-0	EXCLUSIVE EDITION 18 (D,F,G,S) Miss H Knight 5-11-10	J Osborne
2	53-2	ATHERTON GREEN 15 (F,G) J Glover 5-11-9	M A Fitzgerald
3	24F-	CORLY SPECIAL 191 (F,G,S) K Burke 8-11-2	A Larnach (3)
4	26-4	STAPLEFORD LADY 15 (F) J Moore 7-10-5	W McFarland
5	00/0	RADIO CAROLINE 19 M Tate 7-10-2	G Tormey (3)

7-4 Atherton Green, 3-1 Stapleford Lady, 7-2 Exclusive Edition, 5-1 Corly Special, 14-1 Radio Caroline.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: R Buckler, 7 winners from 23 runners, 30.4%; N Twiston-Davies, 19 from 64, 29.7%; Mrs H Parrott, 4 from 15, 26.7%; J Needham, 3 from 14, 21.4%; K Bailey, 13 from 67, 19.4%; P Nicholls, 5 from 27, 18.5%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 10 winners from 33 rides, 30.3%; C Llewellyn, 14 from 54, 25.9%; A P McCoy, 8 from 32, 25.0%; S McNeill, 11 from 54, 20.4%; J R Kavanagh, 9 from 50, 18.0%; A Maguire, 8 from 51, 15.7%.

More colours released

THE British Horseracing Board (BHB) is to release seven new shades for racing colours: aquamarine, cerise, gold, khaki, lime green, silver and terracotta. The colours — available as plain silks, in designs based upon combinations of two new shades or designs of a new shade with one of the 18 existing colours — can be secured only in postal auctions. Plain silks will carry a reserve of £10,000.

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7/1	Spaniard's Close	16/1	Carranita
15/2	Bold Effort	20/1	Domulla
8/1	Alzianah	20/1	Tabook
10/1	Bunty Boo	25/1	Bowden Rose
10/1	Cyrano's Lad	25/1	El Yasaf
11/1	Astrac	40/1	Orange Place

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Dangers of having a doctor in the pavilion

BRYANT'S EYE

It could turn out to be one of the most fascinating confrontations ever seen in Test cricket — it's the battle of the doctors. For as the England cricketers land in South Africa today for their first Test series there for 30 years, they have a most unusual member of their party.

He is Philip Bell, and he is a doctor. His presence is unusual because despite years of headlines demanding "Why did England not take a doctor?", the cricketing authorities seemed set to turn their backs for ever on specialised medical help for touring parties. Their medical needs, which in recent years seem to have grown with every tour, were met first by the traditional bag-carrying physio, second by calling in local medical help, and then finally by the desperate flying in of replacement players.

On their last winter tour to India, after the infamous Dodgy Prawn Debacle, England's three senior batsmen, Graham Gooch, Mike Gatting and Robin Smith, were all laid low by food poisoning on the first day of the Test in Madras. Advice on diet that had been given to them by a London specialist, Dr Tony Hall, before they set out, had apparently been ignored. The cricketing joke at the time had it that there wasn't a problem with players being carried off the pitch, but with players being carried on.

So the inclusion of Dr Philip Bell, a specialist in sports-related injuries who has published papers on the back problems of fast bowlers, is for England quite a breakthrough. He takes with him the Yorkshire physio, Wayne Morton.

But lining up on the South African side is a medical team the like of which has never been seen in cricket. Professor Tim Noakes, a renowned sports medicine scientist from the University of Cape Town, is heading a squad that includes a nutritionist, a sports psychologist, a physiotherapist, a podiatrist (that's a foot-doctor) and a bio-kineticist (a muscle-balancer). The dietician, Dr Paula Volschenk, is big on carbohydrates, and has already hit the headlines in Johannesburg by ruling that South African cricketers will keep their energy levels up throughout matches by eating 12 jelly babies every hour.

> 'I'm not sure I'd let him loose on a cricket team'

Now I'm a great admirer of Tim Noakes and may be one of the few people in England who's read every word of his encyclopaedic book on the science and lore of running, but I'm not sure I'd let him loose on a cricket team. This is a man who cut his sporting teeth on the Comrades Marathon, the annual 56-mile race between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

The South Africans certainly seem to be at the cutting edge of the science of human performance — even if some of it seems at first sight to be just this side of cranky. Take the extraordinary work of Dr Ronald Holder. He's a South African expert in kinesiology (the mechanics of body movement) who makes a speciality of using paper torn from *Yellow Pages* directories. He puts strips of the *Yellow Pages* into the shoes of athletes, spending hours testing and balancing the feet to prevent exercise-related injury. The directory paper is perfect for the job, he says, because it is thin and strong and allows fantastic precision in getting the balance just right.

Before you scoff, you should talk to athletes such as the 400 metre runner, Roger Black, and javelin throwers, Steve Backley and the world record-breaker Jan Zelezny. They swear by him.

In the summer, Holder may even have influenced the outcome of the rugby union World Cup final. He analysed videotapes of Jonah Lomu, the unstoppable New Zealand wing, and concluded that opponents had been tackling him on the wrong side. Go for the other side, he advised, where he's not so balanced. The South Africans did. And they won.

But there are a lot of people who wonder if cricketers really need this high-tech medical approach and months of physical conditioning. If you're out in the field for five or six hours at a time, they argue, how much more exercise can you take? Getting enough recovery time in the face of an ever-increasing workload is becoming the real problem for today's international cricketer. Air travel and the global nature of cricket has turned it into the game of all the summers. The England team will play five Tests and seven one-day internationals in South Africa, after which they will have around ten days at home before they have to set out for the World Cup in India. They have had a scant four weeks to recover from the English summer season. It's madness. You don't need a professor in sports medicine to tell you that, with a programme like this, bodies are going to break down (not to mention marriages).

> 'He puts strips of the Yellow Pages into the shoes of athletes'

What today's doctors need to tell our cricketers is clear enough — they need more rest, not more training camps with fancy physical exercise programmes. Here's the advice of one medical man, who sounds both authoritative and up-to-date on keeping in shape for cricket. "The best system is that which renders it unnecessary to have recourse to any sudden methods of increasing muscular or mental power. Carefully diet; keep regular hours; eat moderately. Avoid late dinners and many courses. Take simple wholesome food. Drink but little. Never have to take refuge in doses and pick-me-ups, and avoid excesses of all kinds, particularly in spirits and tobacco. If you are wise you will never want to go into training, for you will always be in condition, and your powers and faculties will require no special treatment to improve them, for they will always be kept up in their highest state of healthy vigour."

Now that's the kind of doctor's advice a cricket team really needs. It was given in 1892, by a Dr W. G. Grace.

John Bryant

The Russian doll solution

Opinion: Land of Hope. *Radio 4, 9.30am.*

In an age of increasing globalism and tribalism, what can writers do about their fading cultural and national identity, asks Malcolm Bradbury. Well, for one thing, they can go on to the radio, as Bradbury does this morning, and find out from some other roving writers whether they see themselves as he does — a mental migrant adrift in a cultural dead sea. Linda Colley, the historian, throws him a lifeline. Put your identities on top of each other like a set of Russian dolls, she suggests. Apparently, the Welsh are starting to do precisely this already. Russell Celyn Jones, the Welsh writer, says that his compatriots have made a start on this by describing themselves as part of the European experiment rather than as part of England. Or does he mean Britain?

Lunchtime Concerto. *Classic FM, 2.00pm.*

It just is not true, as the music critic Harold C. Schonberg wrote in his *Lives of the Great Composers*, that Saint-Saëns is best known for his worst music. He gives as an example the opera *Samson et Dalila* and *The Swan*. Nowadays, Saint-Saëns is best known for his exciting Symphony No 3 (the so-called Organ Symphony) and his Cello Concerto No 1, which Arto Noras plays today with the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra. It has many exquisite passages. It sings from the heart, and, when it dances, it is with the lightness of fallen leaves stirred by a breeze.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. **4.00am** Dave Pearce **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat; and at **1.15** The Net **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Clive Warren, incl at **4.40** *Judge Dredd*; at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat; and at **6.15** The Net. **7.00** Evening Session, with Jo Whiley and Steve Lamacq **9.00** Soundbite: Danny Kelly with music news **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **12.00-4.00am** Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** *Sarah Kennedy* with the Dawn Patrol **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** The News Huddlines **7.30** David Allan with the pick of country music **9.00** Paul Jones, with guest Mick Fleetwood **9.45** The Gospel Train from the Birmingham Christian Centre **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl at **6.55** and *7.55 Racing* **8.35** The Magazine **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl at **12.34pm** Moneycheck **2.05** Ruscoe on Five **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide **7.00** News Extra with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** *The* Thursday Match **8.05** Women on Top: Eleanor Oldroyd looks at women in sport **9.05** SportsAmerica with Alton Byrd **10.05** News Talk with *Paul Reynolds* **11.00** Night Extra **12.05am** Night Moves **2.05** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am *Sandy Warr* **7.00** *Simon Bates* **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm and Lowri Turner **7.00** Sean Bolger **9.00** *Moz Dee* **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in *BST*. **5.00am** *News* **5.30** Europe **6.00** News **6.30** Europe **7.00** Newsday **7.30** Europe **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf: *Catherine Carmichael* **8.30** Network UK **9.00** News **9.10** Words of Faith **9.15** Composer of the Month **9.45** Good Books **10.00** News in German **10.15** Sports International **10.45** Sport **11.00** New **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf: *Catherine Carmichael* Noon News **12.30pm** Bhangra Beat **1.00** News **1.05** Business **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Assignment **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** *X-Press* **4.00** *News in German* **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Network UK **5.00** News **5.15** World Today **5.30** News in German **6.00** Europe Today **6.30** Business **6.45** *Sport* **7.00** New **7.30** News in German **8.01** Outlook **8.25** Words of Faith **8.30** John Peel **9.00** *News* **10.00** *News* **10.05** Business **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian **11.00** News **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport *Midnight* News **12.10am** Take Five **12.15** Network UK **12.45** Health Matters **1.00** News **1.30** On the Move **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** News **2.10** *Press Review* **2.15** *In the* Lion's Den **2.45** Global Concerns **3.00** News **3.30** Stories in Verse **4.00** News **4.15** Sport **4.30** Focus on Faith

CLASSIC FM

4.00am *Early Breakfast* **6.00** Nick Bailey **9.00** Mike Read **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: See Choice **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** *Newsnight* **6.30** Sonata **7.00** *The Travel* Guide: Baltic cruise **8.00** Evening Concert: Music from Finland **10.00** *Michael Mappin* **1.00am** *Robert Booth*

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyte **10.00** *Janey Lee Grace* **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

5.55am **Weather** *6.00* ***On Air:*** Includes Telemann (Overture-Suite in E minor, Tafelmusik); Harty (Ode to a Nightingale); Medtner (Danza festiva, Op 38 No 3); Pleyel (Sextet in E flat); Walton, arr Wright (Crown Imperial); Haydn (String Quartet in D minor, Op 76 No 2, Fifths)

9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambaccini: Includes Mendelssohn (Scherzo, A Midsummer Night's Dream); Tchaikovsky (Andante cantabile, Op 11); Haydn (Piano Sonatas: Sonata in C minor); Borodin (String Quartet No 2 in D)

10.00 Musical Encounters: Including *Artist of the Week*: Anne Queffélec, piano. Scarlatti (Sonatas: In C; in F minor; in D); **10.10** Britten (Phantasy, Op 2); Mudarra (Isabel, perdiste la tu faxa); Valderrábano (Discantar sobre un punto); Brahms (Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel); Ibert (Escales)

12.00 Fairest Isle: Composer of the Week: Stanford. Janet Baker, mezzo; Gerald Moore, piano, perform a selection of songs. La Belle Dame sans merci; The rain it *raineth every* day; Drake's Drum; The Bluebird; The Fairy Lough; A Soft Day; *Songs of the Fleet*

1.00 The Boston Romantics: Amy Marcy Cheney Beech (Romance; Symphony in E minor, Gaelic, third movement)

2.00 Schools: Radio Showcase **2.05** *In the News* **2.25** Something to Think About **2.40** Music Workshop

3.00 Fairest Isle: The Shepherd's Wedding. Music for the marriage of King George III (r)

3.45 Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square, under John Lubbock, with Cathryn Pope, *soprano, performs Busoni, arr* Schoenberg (Berceuse élégiaque); Woolrich (Ariadne Laments); Dallapiccola (Piccola Musica Notturna); Mozart (Adagio and Rondo in C minor); Brahms, arr Woolrich (*Ophelia song*); J. Strauss, son, arr Schoenberg (Emperor Waltz)

5.00 The Music Machine

5.15 In Tune: *With David Norris*

7.30 BBC National Orchestra of Wales under David Atherton; Peter Donohoe, *piano*, perform Grace Williams (Sea Sketches); Beethoven (Piano Concerto No 3 in C minor); Prokofiev *(Romeo and Juliet:* Suite No 2)

9.10 Fairest Isle: The Instrument-Makers looks at the flute and the oboe

9.30 Dvořák: Scherzo Capriccioso (BBC Concert Orchestra *under David Measham)*

9.50 New Waves: featuring the music of Mark-Anthony Turnage and Gavin Bryars

10.45 Night Waves *presented* by Humphrey Carpenter

11.30-12.30am The Cheltenham Symphonists: BBC Scottish Orchestra under *Martyn* Brabbins; Philip Fowke, piano. Rawsthorne (Piano Concerto No 2); *Fricker* (Symphony No 1)

1.00-2.30 Night School: Together Stories **1.30** Music for Dance **2.00** Look and Read: Spacewarp

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast (LW only) **6.00** News, incl Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl 7.25; **8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** *Yesterday in Parliament* **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts, *with John Waite (r)*

9.30 Opinion: Land of Hope. See Choice

10.00-10.30 News; Bertie and the Crime of Passion (FM only): Peter Lovesey's historical whodunnit. Dramatised by Geoffrey M. Matthews (2/4)

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray talks to Linda McCartney. Serial: Rosemary Leach reads *Mrs Frampton* by Pam Gems (8/9)

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00pm News; You and Yours, with Liz Barclay

12.25 Questions of Taste: Chris Kelly with a new series of the food and drink quiz **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping

2.00 News; Voices Offstage by Peter Ling. With Dorothy *Tutin and Christopher Godwin* as Ellen Terry and Henry Irving (r)

3.00 News; The Afternoon Shift: *Mountaineer Graham Hoyland* takes to the skies with the DIY aviators who build and fly their own planes

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Paul Allen watches a huge cast enact John Osborne's play, *A Patriot for Me*

4.45 Short Story: *The Red Card* by Carol Gunter. Read by Laurence Allen

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 First Impressions, with Pete McCarthy, Alistair McGowan and Steve Nallon

7.00 News; 7.05 The Archers

7.20 Coming Soon ... TV's True Confessions. Why do people go on national television to confess their most personal secrets and problems?

8.00 Analysis Ken Worpole asks why we no longer regard cities as the wealth of nations

8.45 The New Recruit: Driving Instructors. Alec Skinner passes on his tricks of the trade to newcomer Sue Smith

9.00 Does He Take Sugar? *Magazine* for listeners with disabilities

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight

10.45 A Book at Bedtime: A Country Doctor's Notebook. Derek Jacobi reads Mikhail Bulgakov's story (4/5)

11.00 First Bite: A Sweet Dessert, by Abigail Morgan. Head chef Emma is trapped in the kitchen, but plans her escape with culinary genius Anton Victoire. With Jane Whittenshaw and *David Holt*

11.30 Offspring, With John Peel (r) (FM only)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00am News incl *12.27* Weather

12.30 The Late Book: The Information. An abridged reading *of Martin Amis's* novel *by William Nighy (14/15)*

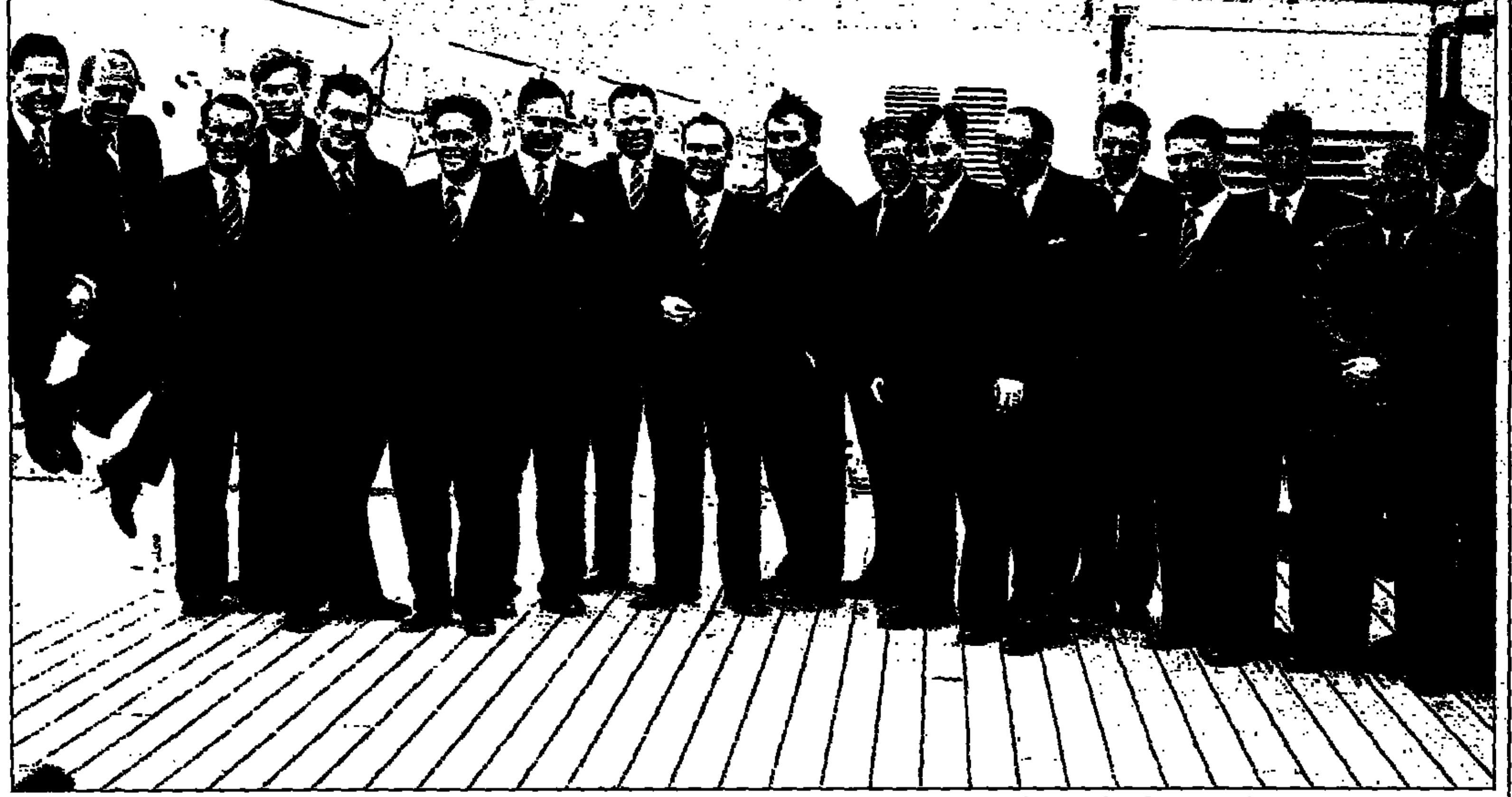
12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00** As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

South Africans united in purpose after enduring long period of exile

England assured of warm welcome

John Woodcock pays tribute to Ali Bacher, whose efforts helped to end years of isolation



Peter May's powerful 1956-57 side posed for photographs on the deck of the *Edinburgh Castle* before sailing from Southampton. Left to right: M C Cowdrey, G A R Lock, J H Wardle, A S M Oakman, J C Laker, T E Bailey, P B H May (captain), F R Brown (manager), T G Evans D C S Compton, P E Richardson, D J Insole, F H Tyson, P J Loader, B Taylor, J M Parks, G Duckworth (baggage master) and J B Statham

BESIDES the sense of relief, not to say deliverance, which may be expected to permeate England's forthcoming cricket tour of South Africa, there is another aspect that makes it unusually attractive. That is the prospect of covering fresh ground and seeing new faces.

England have played more than 600 days' cricket in Australia and over 300 in the Caribbean since they last took the field in South Africa. We have come to know too well the jingoism of Sydney and Melbourne and the frenzy of Bridgetown and Kingston, even the aromas of the subcontinent. Today, it is back to the "happy highways where we went" and feared we might never go again.

Once upon a time, cricketers considered South Africa to be, in many ways, the best of all tours: it was not as demanding as Australia or as torrid as the West Indies or as wearing as India, and the hospitality was lavish almost to a fault. The first time I went there, with Peter May's side in 1956-57, we sailed from Southampton to Table Bay before watching the captain make 162 against Western Province, 118 against Eastern Province, 124 not out against Rhodesia at Salisbury and 206 against them at Bulawayo in his first four first-class innings. He seemed infallible.

But South Africa were not to be as easily picked off as that. They never are. Neil Adcock and Peter Heine, quite as formidable a pair of opening bowlers as Allan Donald and whoever partners him, lay in wait.

In the Test series May had a difficult time against the steeply-rising ball and each side won two matches. Before very long South Africa were the best side in the world.

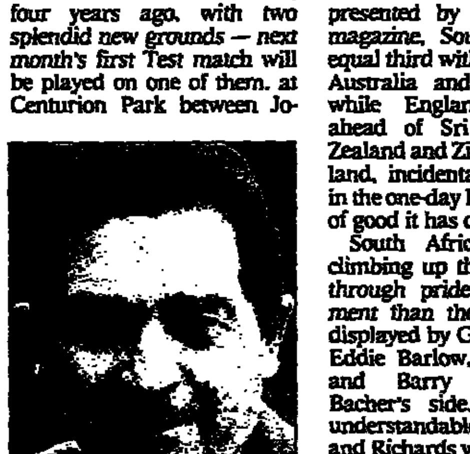
The ever-increasing ease with which they beat Australia, who were led first by Bobby Simpson and then by Bill Lawry, in seven of the nine Test matches they played against them between 1967 and their being ostracised in 1970 was extraordinary.

This was especially so when you think that the players who did it were drawn from such a tiny percentage of South Africa's total population — namely the English-speaking whites.

Of all the Test sides I have seen, I am inclined to think that the South Africans of 1969-70, brimming with confidence and aggression and vitality, would have been the most likely to match the all-conquering West Indians of the 1980s.

And of all the good men who have devoted much of their lives to the welfare of cricket — Harris, Warner, Allen, Bradman, Insole and Cowdrey to name but a few — none can ever have fought more tirelessly than the captain of that same South African side, Ali Bacher.

A little demon to get out when he batted, Bacher has been a symbol of tenacity and defiance and impartiality ever since. England play Australia for the Ashes and West Indies for the Wisden Trophy; they should play South Africa for the Bacher Bowl. Thanks chiefly to him, South Africa came out of their isolation, four years ago, with two splendid new grounds — next month's first Test match will be played on one of them, at Centurion Park between Johannesburg and Pretoria — and a game that was not only still in business but was spreading its wings.



Bacher: unyielding

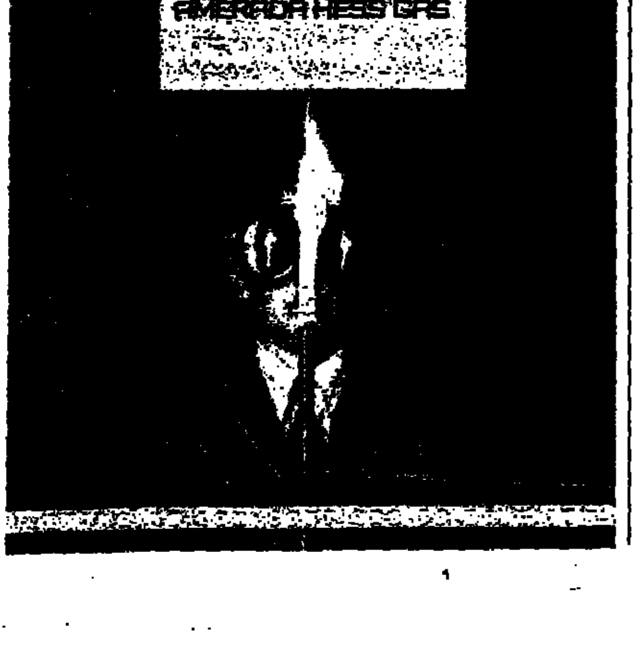
In the Test ratings, as presented by *The Cricketer* magazine, South Africa are equal third with India, behind Australia and West Indies, while England are sixth, ahead of Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Zimbabwe. (England, incidentally, lie second in the one-day list, and a fat lot of good it has done them.)

South Africa have been climbing up the ladder more through pride and commitment than the kind of flair displayed by Graeme Pollock, Eddie Barlow, Mike Procter and Barry Richards of Bacher's side. But that is understandable, for Pollock and Richards were touched by genius, and at any one time that can be said of no more than three or four batsmen in the world. Brian Lara, Martin Crowe, Sachin Tendulkar, possibly Aravinda de Silva and Mohammad Azharuddin — that is about as many as there are at the moment.

But, as one nation, South Africa's potential is greater than ever. The Afrikaners no longer have ambitions only to till the soil or play rugby for their country. They have become in a short time a serious, instinctively puritanical cricketing force, inspired by Kepler Wessels, Fanie de Villiers and their present captain, Hansie Cronje. For the first 100 years of organised cricket in South Africa, genuine Afrikaners seldom featured. Today they might well beat a side of their English-speaking compatriots. It is a development of the utmost significance.

And then, of course, there is what in theory constitutes the most productive source of all, the non-whites. Watching the young Sowetan side that came to play in England last summer was to realise that the game, anyway in the black townships, is still very much in its infancy. But the seeds have been sown, and it is to Soweto next week that England go for the start of their first-class programme.

If the turf pitch lasts the four days allotted to the match, that alone will be an achievement. This is a missionary visit to Soweto of the kind that has almost entirely disappeared in the face of contracting tour itineraries and countless one-day internationals. Wherever they go, though, England will be given a great reception. Much is expected of them, and they will do well not to forget it.



Kumble captures his hundredth Test wicket

ANIL KUMBLE, the India leg spinner, took his hundredth Test wicket yesterday to help his team into a strong position against New Zealand on the opening day of the first Test in Bangalore.

Kumble and Javagal Srinath, who enjoyed outstanding seasons in English county cricket this summer, were mainly responsible for New Zealand's dismissal for 145, India replying with 81 for three.

An expectant crowd had to wait until just before lunch before Kumble, in his home town, dismissed Martin Crowe to reach his milestone. Crowe, who had made 11, edged a top-spinner to Sachin Tendulkar at slip.

Only Lee Germon, the first New Zealander to lead his side on his Test debut, appeared comfortable against the India bowlers. He was not afraid to use his feet against the spinners and dealt severely with the occasional loose delivery, hitting nine fours in his 48 before he, too, fell to the combined efforts of Kumble and Tendulkar.

Kumble finished with four for 39, while Srinath, who made the first inroads with some clever swing bowling, took three for 24.

After Danny Morrison had got rid of Manoj Prabakhar, Dion Nash accounted for Tendulkar and Sanjay Manjrekar to reduce India to 54 for three, leaving Ajay Jadeja and Mohammad Azharuddin to exercise considerable caution in the closing overs of the day.

Scoreboard, page 43

Answers from page 43

RUTTER

(c) The English form of the French *Routier*, a roadman or freelance. Free companies of licensed murderers were rampant on the roads of Europe after the Treaty of Bretigny (1360). Many of them chose their own particular routes for their business of rape, murder and pillage under the flag of the highest bidder.

PIP SQUEAK

(b) The full set of three medals awarded to surviving veterans of the whole of World War I (not many) were known as Pip, Squeak and Wilfrid, from the names of an early strip cartoon in the *Daily Mirror*. Formally, they were the 1914/15 Star, the General Service Medal, and the Victory Medal.

SHUFTI

(a) A quick look or glance, also as a verb to take or have a shufti or quick peep at something. Army and Cockney slang, from the Indian Army, and the Arabic *shufti* have you seen? "Good idea, old boy. Let's 'ave a crafty shufti round with that in mind, shall we?"

MANGONEL

(c) A military engine used for casting rocks, human heads and other dispiriting missiles against an enemy's position. From the Greek *manganon* an engine of war, a pulley. Walter Scott, *Ivanhoe*, 1819: "You may win the wall in spite both of bow and mangonel."

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مكتبة الأهرام

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One last, defiant gesture and they were gone

REVIEW

Matthew Bond

In certain circles it has become fashionable to engage in vigorous debate on the subject, Smith and Jones or Hale and Pace — which is funnier? But not in mine. No, in a world where the prospect of Eamonn Holmes broadcasting simultaneously on all four channels looms ever nearer (last night he managed BBC1 and ITV), we need all the cheering up we can get.

I am, therefore, profoundly grateful to both partnerships for lightening the gloom in their own different ways. The difference between them being that, while Hale and Pace's subject matter is normally very much a case of *pas devant la grand-mère*, Smith and Jones have gradually been moving towards the safer middle ground formerly occupied by the Two Ronnies and Morecambe and Wise. Until, that is, last night, the last in the current series of **Smith and Jones** (BBC1).

Whether it was the fact that it was the final show or whether it was because BBC2 next week starts to show repeats of their ground-breaking youth in *Not The Nine O'Clock News* I do not know, but suddenly Smith and Jones were not about to go gently into that good anything. They were rude, cruel and very funny.

Granny, I'm afraid, lasted little longer than the clever title sequence, which if it hasn't prompted a number of early retirements from the presentation departments of BBC2, Channel 4 and Carlton — well, it should have.

"No Gran, I don't know what's funny about clock extensions either," I said as I wheeled her hurriedly from the room. "And I'm pleased to hear that you don't vacuum up the biscuit crumbs in bed — it does look dangerous, doesn't it."

A fortnight or so ago, the pair had a running gag with the punchline "No, I really can't be bothered" which at the time seemed just a little bit too close to the truth to be funny. But last night they clearly had been bothered. The orchestra musicians who couldn't play their violins but were willing to learn owed a big debt to Morecambe and Wise (and André Previn, come to that) but the idea was brilliantly executed. "It takes 15 years to become a concert violinist," raged the conductor. "What time's the concert, then?"

But my favourite moments were two sketches of inspired silliness. In the first Lord Lucan was alive, well and living happily as Desmond Lynam (well, do you remember seeing Des before 1975?); and in the second came the suggestion that, following in the traditions of the departing bride, the chief mourner at a funeral should toss a wreath in the direction of the congregation. Mind you, I'm quite glad granny missed that one, too.

There were more generational problems with **Poop! Poop!** (ITV), a sort of how-it-was-done curtain raiser to a new animated version of Kenneth Grahame's classic that will grace our screens at Christmas. Grahame, we were told, wrote "for those who keep the spirit of youth alive in them". This interesting but earnest documentary was presumably aimed at a similar audience. So why did it go out at what used to be called Children's Hour?

Suspension of disbelief counted for nothing. A whole generation will now grow up believing that the most important thing about Toad is not that he loved fast motor cars, but that it took 30 litres of paint to keep his face the right shade of green.

Serious men with serious beards (facial hair seems compulsory in the world of animation) discussed serious subjects such as characterisation, visualisation and dope sheets. "Dope — that's American for information," mumbled another beard, hurriedly, presumably in case any passing seven-year-old should think otherwise.

Rik Mayall essayed a burst of the voice he uses for Toad, a cross, he said, between the characters he played in those two other children's classics, *Bottom* and *The Young Ones*. "No sorry, that's a bit too . . ." Camp was the word he was searching for, but thankfully he didn't find it. Still, the experts suggested that 400 artists and 500 gallons of paint have rarely been brought together to better effect.

The problem for **Earth 2** (Sky One) is the opposite — I mean in terms of generations, not paint. Three episodes into its run, it is now evident that this is either a children's programme scheduled at the wrong time or an adult programme rendered unwatchable by its over-dependence on obnoxious eight-year-olds.

My only excuse for watching again was to see if Commander O'Neil was going to make it three episodes in a row — dying that is. Given the long runs that American dramas tend to come in, dying in episode one is normally considered a raw deal. Dying in episodes one and two ("you mean, gasp, we buried the commander alive?") might be considered doubly unfortunate. In *Earth 2*, however, it actually shows a steely determination on the part of the actor to get out while he can. He did not rise again.

The expensive special effects of episode one are now a distant memory and the most exciting moment of what is fast turning into *Little House on the Alien Prairie* was the Gro-Bag horse. Water and stand well back. Next week, boil-in-the-bag eight-year-old, please?

Finally, I turned to **Pirates** (BBC1), a children's drama series which featured a man permanently tied up in a sack, a drag queen (Lily Savage), the repeated use of handguns and heavy frying pans and a very good joke about a poet called Eponymous Biro. "What sort of name's that?" "A pen name." At last — one for granny.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (22109)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (84630819)
9.10 Kilroy (s) (8488267)
10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5907884) **10.05 Housemates** (s) (1820880)
10.35 Good Morning with Anne and Nick (s) (1898513)
12.00pm News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4376987) **12.05 Pebble Mill.** With Dudley Moore (s) (7688819)
12.50 Regional News and weather (70211831)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) (92819)
1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (91890345)
1.50 Racing from Newbury (s) (38022109)
3.50 Barney (r) (8336819) **3.55 Monster Cafe** (s) (4814426) **4.10 The Animals of Farthing Wood** (Ceefax) (s) (1751890) **4.35 Smart** (Ceefax) (s) (2453722) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (9549242)
5.10 Byker Grove (Ceefax) (2831797)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (515877)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (180)
6.30 Regional news magazines (432) **Wales 6.56** Drugs Awareness Week
7.00 Top of the Pops (Ceefax) (s) (3093)
7.30 EastEnders (Ceefax) (616)
8.00 Animal Hospital. Lisa Merry is charged with hand-rearing orphaned baby squirrels before they can be rehoused in a wildlife sanctuary. (Ceefax) (s) (6513)
8.30 Big Break Trick Shot Special. Jim Davidson and John Virgo with snooker tricks. (Ceefax) (s) (8548)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax). Weather (9068)
9.30 Backup: Clubbing. Drama series about a police operational support unit. The team's relationship with the drugs squad becomes even more tense after a raid on a club. PC Cheetham begins to worry that his lover, DCI Chivers, may be involved in corruption. With Martin Troakes, Christopher John Hall and Nick Miles (686277)

Gary Lineker and David Gower (10.20pm)

10.20 They Think It's All Over. Nick Hancock comperes the last in this series of games of wit and sporting knowledge, with Gary Lineker, David Gower, Lee Hurst and Rory McGrath (904797) **Northern Ireland:** Spotlight 10.50 They Think It's All Over 11.20 Question Time 12.30am Inside Ulster News 12.25-1.55 Film: Captain America
10.50 Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs a topical question-and-answer session and discussion. The guests in London include John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party, Louise Christian, a civil rights lawyer, and Ian Hislop, Editor of *Private Eye*. (Ceefax) (945722)
11.50 FILM: Dancers (1987). Ungainly romantic drama, not a patch on *The Turning Point*, with Mikhail Baryshnikov, Alessandra Ferri, Leslie Browne, Lynn Seymour. A womanising ballet star arrives in Italy to film *Giselle*. He becomes infatuated with an American teenager and he invites her to join the ballet. Directed by Herbert Ross. (Ceefax) (248987) Wales: BBC Wales Drugs Awareness Week 11.55 They Think It's All Over 12.25am Film: Dancers
1.30am Weather (3327846)

BBC2

6.00am The Learning Zone (50426) **6.30 Technology season:** Computing for the Less Terrified (66906)
7.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (1182221)
7.15 Lassie (r) (9043277) **7.40 Pirates of Dark Water** (r) (Ceefax) (9080068) **8.05 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7611695) **8.35 The Record** (6809074)
9.00 Secret Service (r) (Ceefax) (s) (16695) **9.30 Focus** (s) (6950819) **9.45 Over the Moon** (s) (6948074) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (1742068) **10.25 Storytime** (s) (2867548) **10.45 Teaching Today** (s) (108068) **11.15 Hotline 2** (5234155) **11.35 Landmarks** (3434461) **11.55 Job Bank** (s) (3251345)
12.15pm Le Club (s) (5017277) **12.30 Working Lunch** (37365) **1.00 Lifeschool** (s) (22552180) **1.25 Mad About Music** (s) (81754155) **1.45 Numbertime** (s) (26812890) **2.00 The Family Ness** (r) (97276703) **2.05 Bump** (r) (97275074) **2.10 A Century of Warfare** (2962155)
3.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather; **Westminster with Nick Ross** (8157819) **3.55 News** (Ceefax) and weather (8326432)
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (345)
4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (529)
5.00 Oprah Winfrey (Ceefax) (s) (3190258)
5.40 The Sky at Night (r) (s) (792684) **6.00 Star Trek — Deep Space Nine** (Ceefax) (s) (610987)
6.45 Rocky Star (b/w). Space spoof (968529)
6.50 Close Up (s) (604819)
7.00 Waiting for God (r) (Ceefax) (s) (1635)
7.30 First Sight: Struck Off! (258) **Northern Ireland:** Sceal Dha Chistin 7.35 Now You're Talking; **East:** Matter of Fact; **Midlands:** Midlands Report; **North, North East, North West:** Close Up North; **South:** Southern Eye; **South West:** Close-Up

Brendan Wilson on the Aardman set (8.00pm)

8.00 Picture This: Close Friends in Distant Rooms (Ceefax) (s) (4155)
8.30 Top Gear. The team looks at this year's London Motor Show at Earls Court (s) (9890)
9.00 In the Company of Men: The Commander (Ceefax) (s) (8646)
10.00 KYTV: Fly on the Walls (r) (Ceefax) (s) (29838)
10.30 Newsnight. Jeremy Paxman (Ceefax) (207109)
11.15 Late Review. Looks at the series *In the Company of Men* (s) (152345) **11.55 Weather** (518277)
12.00 The Midnight Hour. Political magazine (s) (68827)
12.30am The Learning Zone: Open University: Modern Art: Musée d'Orsay (49204); **1.00** Rodin (47469); **1.30** Film Montage (68440) **2.00 FETV Short Cuts:** Food (85391) **4.00 BBC Focus:** The Royal Institution Lecture (48020) **5.30-6.00 RCN Nursing Update** (69556)

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CHOICE

Major Crispin Black serves his men (BBC2, 9.00pm)

In the Company of Men
BBC2, 9.00pm

Molly Dineen has won a deserved reputation for her television documentaries, despite being unlucky with her timing. Her series about the crisis at London Zoo was screened only when we all knew the outcome and her new project, a study of British troops in Northern Ireland, was filmed well before the ceasefire. But if the three programmes have the whiff of old history, the material is still compelling. In the first, Welsh Guards are sent to the border to guard a police station against possible IRA mortars. Having nearly 100 soldiers looking after just eight cops has an absurd dimension to it. This is even acknowledged by the star of the film, Major Crispin Black, the young, self-assured and irreverent company commander.

Picture This: Close Friends in Distant Rooms
BBC2, 8.00pm

Four friends who suffer from schizophrenia try to convey what it means in a film shot by one of them, Brendan Wilson. There are two elements. The first is a series of personal testimonies. Maddy tells how she still hears the voice of her dead father, who abused her when she was a child. We hear from Neil how a failed suicide attempt led to a 60ft fall and a broken back. Neil and Maddy have struck up a friendship and he declares that people, not medication, are the best treatment. Sandra, who has overcome her illness, insists that it is possible for schizophrenics to lead normal lives. The programme's other strand is a film about the schizophrenic experience made by Aardman, the Oscar-winning animation company.

Short Stories: Rockin' Back the Clock
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Meet Red Peters and the Solid Senders, an American rock 'n' roll band of the 1950s created in 1990s Britain. Red Peters, alias Fiona Culshaw, is the vocalist. Husband Paul sports a Desi Arnaz quiff and plays the trumpet. At their wedding, the car was a 1954 Cadillac. The band is preparing for its biggest gig so far, at a rock 'n' roll weekender in Norfolk attended by 2,000 fellow 1950s freaks. As the day approaches, nerves and tensions set in. Fiona is afraid that nobody will clap. But she takes courage. After all, they are on stage for only 20 minutes. Amanda Mears's film is an endearing, well-observed tribute to eccentricity. As Paul says: "The way I do it, the Sixties will never come." Let alone the Eighties or the Nineties.

Jake's Progress
Channel 4, 10.00pm

Jake's Progress is a reminder of how good an actress Julie Walters is. Playing the mother of a child who hates her and the wife of a feckless husband, she needs anger and she delivers it. Jake, the boy-monster, meanwhile, continues to disturb. It is hard to remember anybody quite like him outside the horror film, and *Jake's Progress* is not that. As with *G.B.H.*, Bleasdale's last epic for Channel 4, you feel there is a danger of material being stretched too thin. But you have to admit to being intrigued. The unexplained murder at the beginning of tonight's episode must surely crop up again and you cannot believe that Lindsay Duncan is there just to play what so far looks like an an irrelevant cameo. **Peter Waymark**

CARLTON

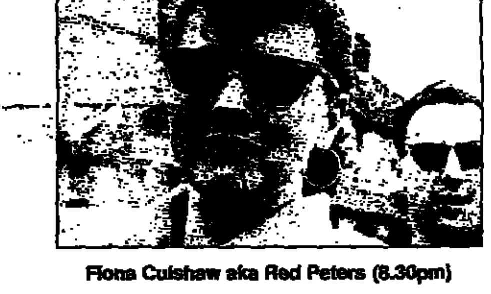
6.00am GMTV (7016635)
9.25 Supermarket Sweep (s) (5380161)
9.55 London Today (Teletext) (1825345)
10.00 The Time . . . the Place (s) (9685426)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine show (39167703)
12.20pm London Today (Teletext) (4292971)
12.30 News (Teletext) and weather (9653426)
12.55 Home and Away (Teletext) (9734345)
1.25 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (22468797)
1.55 A Country Practice (s) (91715600)
2.20 Vanessa (Teletext) (s) (44899987)
2.50 Special Babies (r) (Teletext) (s) (8763529)
3.20 ITN News headlines (Teletext) (9505249)
3.25 London Today (Teletext) (4450190)
3.30 The Riddlers (4902635) **3.40 Wizadora** (s) (1620068) **3.50 Astro Farm** (Teletext) (s) (1715180) **4.00 Live with the Goggles** (Teletext) (s) (8330635) **4.25 CrazyHowBadAttack** (Teletext) (s) (9133345) **5.00 Back with the Goggles** (Teletext) (s) (9647838)
5.10 After 5 with Caron Keating (Teletext) (1851093)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News (Teletext) (479819)
5.55 Your Shout. Viewers' opinions (205797)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (548)
6.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (600)
7.00 Emmerdale. Rachel stands her ground against the Tates. (Teletext) (8161)
7.30 The Big Story. Dermot Murnaghan investigates teenage girl vegetarians (s) (884)
8.00 The Bill: Mugs. Keane and Jarvis find themselves protecting a known swindler from the crowd he has duped. With Andrea Mason and Stephen Beckett. (Teletext) (4109)

Lumley, Waterman and friend (8.30pm)

8.30 Class Act. Last of the caper-crime series. Somebody wants rock legend Eddie Saxe dead. Kate, Jack and Gloria get stars in their eyes trying to protect him. With Joanna Lumley and Dennis Waterman. (Teletext) (s) (13906)
9.30 Police, Camera, Action! Helicops. Looks at air support helicopters using thermal imaging cameras to chase criminals across open countryside in the dark (s) (44635)
10.00 News at Ten (Teletext) (16364)
10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (953906)
10.40 Look Who's Talking with Mariella Frostrup: Sir Terence Conran (s) (673797)
11.10 Big City (s) (327567) **11.40 Bagdad Cafe** (s) (856819) **12.15am Profile** (s) (4208198)
12.25 War of the Worlds (Teletext) (2750556)
1.20 Shift and **ITN News** headlines (3076136)
2.15 The Beat (r) (s) (9801223)
3.10 The Album Show (r) (s) (8256759)
4.00 Harvey Shine Presents (44245488)
4.10 The Little Picture Show (r) (8341049)
5.00 Vanessa (r) (Teletext) (s) (11556)
5.30 ITN Morning News (89310). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Heathcliff (6668722)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (66682)
9.00 Sabotage. With Maria McErlane (r) (20513)
9.30 Schools: Middle English (6945987) **9.45** The Maths Programme (9823093) **10.05** Scientific Eye (3023161) **10.25** Geographical Eye (2852616) **10.45** *Le Petit Monde de Pierre* (1185155) **11.00** Time Capsule (5231068) **11.20** Changing Wales (3566242) **11.40** Spanish (3258258)
12.00 House to House. Parliamentary reports (13277)
12.30pm Sesame Street. Early learning series (82548)
1.30 The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (r) (s) (47623068)
1.55 Horsey Mail (b/w). Short about a floating postal service in Norfolk (91455971)
2.05 FILM: The Mortal Storm (1940, b/w). With Frank Morgan, James Stewart and Margaret Sullavan. Directed by Frank Borzage (802722)
4.00 Think Tank. Quiz (s) (513)
4.30 Fifteen to One Quiz (Teletext) (s) (797)
5.00 Ricki Lake (Teletext) (s) (1986906)
5.45 Terrytoons. Mighty Heroes (469432)
6.00 Home Improvement (Teletext) (s) (890)
6.30 New Gamesmaster. Video and computer games magazine (s) (242)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (645093)
7.50 The Slot. Viewers' soapbox (s) (194797)
8.00 Gimme Health: Alive and Kicking. The last programme in the series to mark Breast Cancer Awareness month reports on a year-in-the-life of Dr Alison McCartney, 44, who was diagnosed as having secondary breast cancer (s) (5451)



Fiona Culshaw aka Red Peters (8.30pm)

8.30 Short Stories: Rockin' Back the Clock (s) (1258)
9.00 Cinefile: Dark and Deadly. In the 1940s and 1950s the film noir genre was at its height, with Hollywood films epitomising the Cold War atmosphere of doom and gloom (s) (1722)
10.00 Jake's Progress. Second episode of a six-part series by Alan Bleasdale. (Teletext) (s) (9807068)
11.20 The Pretenders Live from the Isle of View. Recorded over two days in May this year, the band is joined by the Duke String Quartet and the percussionist Mark "Wiff" Smith. Damon Albarn, of Blur, duets with Chrissie Hynde on the Kinks' *I Go to Sleep* (s) (450884)
12.20am NBA Live: The McDonald's Championship. Highlights from the first day's basketball action at the Docklands Arena in east London. Buckler Bologna v Maccabi Tel Aviv; Real Madrid v Sheffield Sharks (2465469)
12.55 Dispatches (r) (7002339)
1.40 FILM: Red Planet Mars (1952). Absurd sci-fi yarn, with anti-communist intentions. God is in his heaven, which turns out to be Mars; once alerted, Russia's oppressed masses turn to religion. With Peter Graves. Harry Horner directs (511551)
3.20 An Eye on the Music. Contemporary music from Ireland (s) (2810407). Ends at **4.15**

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.55 Emmerdale (9734345) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (22468797) 2.50-3.20 High Road (8763529) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1851093) 6.25 Anglia Weather (375635) 6.30-7.00 Anglia News (600) 10.30 Anglia News (953906) 10.40 The Front Row (673797) 11.10 Prisoner Cell Block H (822567) 12.05am Good Advice (6840594) 12.30 Short Story Cinema (9274198) 12.55 War and Remembrance (585759) 2.45 Best of British Motorsport (21515) 3.15 The Beat (2897558) 4.10 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (90802204) 4.35 Quiz Night (24771001)

CENTRAL
As London except: 2.50-3.20 High Road (8763529) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (1851093) 6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (305187) 10.40 Film: Streets of Gold (52840703) 4.00am Jobfinder (8079730) 5.20 Asian Eye (4022223)

GRANADA
As London except: 12.55-1.25 Shortland Street (9734345) 1.25 Home and Away (81638161) 1.50 Vanessa (47707074) 2.20 Special Babies (44899987) 2.50-3.20 Emmerdale (8763529) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (1851093) 6.25 Granada Tonight (305187) 10.40 New Voices: Grimm (673797) 11.10 The Line (327567) 11.40 Short Story Cinema (418068) 12.25-1.20am War of the Worlds (2750556) 4.00-4.10 Jobfinder (44245488)

HTV WEST
As London except: 12.55 Shortland Street (5991277) 1.20 Coronation Street (22469426) 2.50-3.20 Gardening Time (8763529) 5.10-5.40 A Country Practice (1851093) 6.30-7.00 HTV News (600) 10.45 Limited Edition (812364) 11.15 Street Legal (821838) 12.10am The Twilight Zone (4655881) 4.00 Jobfinder (44245488)

HTV WALES
As HTV WEST except: 2.50-3.20 Surprise Chefs (8763529) 6.30-7.00 Wales Tonight (600) 7.30-8.00 Wales This Week (884) 10.30 HTV Wales News and Weather (944258) 10.45 Petenten (812364) 11.15 Walker on Sport (819277) 11.45 The Big Story (863074)

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.55 Emmerdale (9734345) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (22468797) 2.50-3.20 Shortland Street (8763529) 5.10 Home and Away (1851093) 5.37-5.40 Three Minutes — Crimestoppers (361161) 6.00 Meridian Tonight (548) 6.30-7.00 Big Day Out (600) 10.30 Meridian News and Weather (944258) 10.45 Royal Film Premiere: French Kiss (812364) 11.15 Film: I'm Gonna Git You Sucka (589242) 12.55am War and Remembrance (585759) 2.45 Best of British Motorsport (21515) 3.15 The Beat (2897558) 4.10 Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (90802204) 4.35 Quiz Night (24771001) 5.00 Freescreen (11556)

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.25-12.30 My Story (4373890) 12.55 Emmerdale (9734345) 1.25 Home and Away (22468797) 1.55-2.20 The Young Doctors (91715800) 2.50-3.20 A Country Practice (8763529) 3.25-3.30 Westcountry News; Weather (4450190) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1851093) 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (32890) 10.30 Westcountry News; Weather (953906) 10.40 On the Moor (673797) 11.10 Prisoner Cell Block H (815987) 12.15am Night Shift (4208198) 4.00 Jobfinder (44245488)

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 12.55 Emmerdale (9734345) 1.25-1.55 Home and Away (22468797) 2.50-3.20 Shortland Street (8763529) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (1851093) 5.55 Calendar / Network North (255074) 6.30-7.00 Blockbusters (600) 10.40 Shouting the Odds (290819) 11.25 Prisoner Cell Block H (810722) 12.20am Film: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (72982575) 3.10 America's Top Ten (87703845) 3.40 Cinema (75158843) 4.10 Profile (18200391) 4.30 Jobfinder (77556)

S4C
Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (66682) 9.00 Sabotage (20513) 9.30 Ysgolion/schools (55797) 9.30 Middle English (6945987) 9.45 The Maths Programme (9823093) 10.05 Scientific Eye (3023161) 10.25 Geographical Eye (2852616) 10.45 Le Petit Monde De Pierre (1185155) 11.00 Time Capsule (5231068) 11.20 Changing Wales (3566242) 11.40 The Spanish Programme (3258258) 12.00pm House to House (13277) 12.30 The Pink Panther Show (84445800) 12.45 Aaahh!!! Real Monsters! (84440155) 1.00 Slot Meithrin: T Chwith (85529) 1.30 Film: Submarine Patrol (20789342) 3.15 Ricki Lake: The Search for America's Sexiest Twins (6014172) 4.00 Think Tank (513) 4.30 Absolutely Animals (797) 5.00 5 Pump Uned 5 (5567) 5.30 Fifteen to One (277) 6.00 Newyddion (388249) 6.15 Heno (870432) 7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (946890) 7.25 Bacha Hi O' Ma (250074) 8.00 Ac Eto Nid Myfi... Emyr Roberts (5451) 8.30 Newyddion (1258) 9.00 Ada: Trosedd Mewn Amser (1722) 10.00 Film: This Boy's Story (9804722) 11.05 Lawlor Cleared: Yours for a Fiver (532432) 12.05am In Search of Law and Order (8235440) 1.05 Basketball (4906865)

SATELLITE

SKY ONE
7.00am DJ Kat (22074) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (41109) 8.00 Power Rangers (47258) 8.30 Jeopardy (46529) 9.00 Court TV (60109) 9.30 Oprah Winfrey (39529) 10.30 Blockbusters (59093) 11.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (27529) 12.00 Spellbound (40345) 12.30pm Designing Women (99109) 1.00 The Waltons (87364) 2.00 Geraldo (86221) 3.00 Court TV (1890) 3.30 Oprah Winfrey (7520068) 4.20 Kids TV (1810180) 4.30 Hero Turtles (8451) 5.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (9242) 6.00 Power Rangers (4616) 6.30 Spellbound (2068) 7.00 LAPD (3141) 7.30 M*A*S*H (7180) 8.00 Due South (31109) 9.00 New Untouchables (11345) 10.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (14432) 11.00 Law & Order (31722) 12.00 Late Show (5427846) 12.45am Dieppe (7885933) 1.30 Anything But Love (16707) 2.00 Hit Mix Long Play (3045339)

SKY NEWS
News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (3153109) 10.30 ABC Nightline (57835) 1.30pm CBS News (18180) 2.30 Parliament Live (50906) 6.30 Tonight (41258) 8.30 Target (183797) 11.30 CBS News (82277) 12.30am ABC News (41846) 1.30 Tonight Replay (99204) 2.30 Parliament Replay (88575) 4.30 CBS News (26846) 5.30 ABC News (75812)

SKY MOVIES
6.00pm Showcase (1301109) 10.00 Robot Wars (1993) (97797) 12.00 The Film Flam Man (1967) (11426) 2.00pm Cold River (1982) (32884) 4.00 The Jokers (1966) (7074) 6.00 Robot Wars (58567839) 7.40 US Top 10 (483068) 8.00 The Substitute Wife (1994) (20093) 10.00 Silver (1993) (235093) 11.50 Daybreak (1993) (872093) 1.25am The Man From Left Field (1993) (288204) Appointment for a Killing (1993) (88049) 4.30 Cold River (14001)

SKY MOVIES GOLD
12.00 My Geisha (1962) (80155) 2.00pm Bachelor Knight (1947) (12068) 4.00 Suspicion (1941) (95880703) 5.45 Not As A Stranger (1955) (52706074) 8.00 The Thing (From Another World) (1951) (98267) 10.00 F/X - Murder By Illusion (1986) (318628) 11.55 Force 10 from Navarone (1978) (64961529) 2.00-3.20am Through a Glass Darkly (1961) (81469)

DISNEY CHANNEL
Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (91961345) 6.30 Muppet Babies (13565836) 7.00 Winnie The Pooh (59302797) 7.30 Ducktales (59487432) 8.00 Chip 'n' Dale (24759258) 8.30 Adventures in Wonderland (24758529) 9.00 Fraggle Rock (24772109) 9.30 Welcome to Pooh Corner (91586513) 10.00 Dumbo's Circus (13549890) 10.30 Donald's Quack Attack (24761093) 11.00 Walt Disney Presents (59496180) 12.00 Sinbad (24752345) 12.30pm The Torkelsons (35425345) 1.30 Faerie Tale Theatre (91589600) 2.00 Adventures in Wonderland (65427345) 2.30 Under the Umbrella Tree (23667277) 3.00 Fraggle Rock (65439180) 3.30 Winnie The Pooh (23682722) 4.00 Quack Attack (23858529) 4.30 Ducktales (23574513) 5.00 Chip 'n' Dale (65345797) 5.30 Danger Bay (23661083) 6.00 Tarzan (23888906) 6.30 Dinosaurs (23659258) 7.00 FILM: Little Spies (59488161) 9.00-10.00 Entertainment Special (21802364)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL
6.00am Tarzan's Revenge (1938) (54426) 8.00 The New Adventures of Little Toot (1993) (82882) 9.00 What Next? (1974) (80068) 10.00 Ballad of Josie (1967) (91567) 12.00 Lost in Alaska (1952)(19068) 2.00 Black Widow (1954) (30426) 4.00 The New Adventures of Little Toot (91093) 5.00 What Next? (8180) 6.00 A Time to Heal (1994) (18890) 8.00 Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (1993) (59302703) 9.45 The Movie Show (441890) 10.15 Red Rock West (1993)(218180) 11.55 The Red Shoe Diaries: How I Met My Husband (1993) (648797) 1.25am Sister Act 2: Back in the Habit (659914) 3.15 The Landlord (1970) (63213943)

● For more film information, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY SPORTS
7.00am Sports Centre (75180) 7.30 WWF Superstars (43155) 8.30 Aerobics Oz Style (81600) 9.00 World Soccer Magazine (88180) 9.30 Grass Roots Rugby (13364) 10.00 Golf - Alfred Dunhill Cup - Live (3346109) 5.00pm WWF Action Zone (5068) 6.00 Sports Centre (8890) 6.30 World of Rugby Union (8242) 7.00 Tight Lines (548258) 7.55 Sports Centre (471838) 8.00 Golf — Alfred Dunhill Cup (75513) 10.00 Sports Centre (76345) 10.30 Tight Lines (90987) 11.30 Trans World Sport (20451) 12.30am Golf — Alfred Dunhill Cup (88198) 2.30-3.00 Sports Centre (28448)

EUROSPORT
8.30am Equestrianism (37890) 9.30 Dancing (84093) 10.30 Aerobics (79432) 11.00 Tennis (46567) 11.30 Eurofun (41068) 12.00 Rallycross (25155) 1.00pm Motorcycling Magazine (76819) 1.30 Formula 1 (18819) 2.00 Live Tennis (3847277) 7.30 News (3722) 8.00 Live Tennis (73109) 10.00 Football (44155) 12.00 Boxing (17778) 1.00-1.30am News (38310)

Whoopi Goldberg stars in *Sister Act 2* (Movie Channel, 8.00pm)

SKY SOAP
8.00am Loving (4489345) 8.30 Peyton Place (4488616) 9.00 As The World Turns (6351722) 10.00 Guiding Light (2764242) 11.00-12.00 Another World (2857906)

SKY TRAVEL
12.00 Globetrotter (4482432) 12.30pm Boomerang (5542616) 1.00 Italy (2851722) 1.30 Cooking In America (6541987) 2.00 Getaway (1303432) 2.30 Europe (9531161) 3.00 Discover Your World (1322567) 3.30 Florida! Your City (9543906) 4.00 Travel Guide (9459513) 4.30 Colorado River Adventures (9455797) 5.00 Sports Vacations (1221984) 5.30 Around the World (9542277) 6.00 Europe (9532890) 6.30 Independent Travellers (7062155) 7.30 Getaway (9456426) 8.00 Around the World (1227068) 8.30 Guide (1302703) 9.00 Floyd (4815364) 9.30 Independent Travellers (4972345) 10.30 Sports Vacations (4409109) 11.00 Globetrotter (4820109) 11.30-12.00 American Adventurer (4406242)

TLC
9.00am Room Service (7033109) 9.30 Simply Delicious (7609074) 10.00 It's A Vet's Life (1690513) 10.30 The Generation Game (7022093) 11.00 Only Human (9501451) 12.00 General Practice (7526797) 1.00 Simply Delicious (9512567) 1.30pm Room Service (7602161) 2.00 Will It Hurt? (9520616) 2.30 Right Or Wrong (7724635) 3.00 Animal Magnetism (9532451) 3.30-4.00 It's A Vet's Life (7729180)

UK GOLD
7.00am Namia (9419426) 7.30 Neighbours (9594161) 8.00 Sons and Daughters (7012616) 8.30 EastEnders (7011987) 9.00 The Bill (7035567) 9.30 The Sullivans (7601432) 10.00 All Creatures (9590345) 11.00 Dallas (9510109) 12.00 Sons and Daughters (7015703) 12.30pm Neighbours (7612548) 1.00 EastEnders (9418797) 1.30 The Bill (7611819) 2.00 The Sullivans (51587819) 2.25 Are You Being Served? (8842890) 3.00 Angels (9541109) 3.30 Eldorado (7738838) 4.00 Casualty (69141839) 5.05 Every Second Counts (4622242) 5.45 Are You Being Served? (4011180) 6.25 EastEnders (9869587) 7.00 Eldorado (9526890) 7.30 Kenny Everett (7714258) 8.00 Angels (9542838) 8.30 What A Carry On! (8521345) 9.00 Minder (1142722) 10.00 The Bill (2715703) 10.35 Sport (51873426) 11.40 Lenny Henry (8039345) 12.15am Dr Who (3677730) 12.45 FILM: Horror Hospital (7825285) 2.20-3.30 Shopping (49150961)

THE CHILDREN'S CHANNEL
6.00am Casper (39451) 7.00 Pink Panther (72209) 7.30 Ready or Not (14600) 8.00 Sweet Valley (23277) 8.30 Casper (5475364) 8.45 Dinobabies (5470819) 9.00 Sesame Street (70242) 10.00 Tiny TCC (51548) 12.00 Barney (26364) 12.30pm Tiny TCC (55426) 2.30 Madeline (3971) 3.00 Sonic (1884) 3.30 Pink Panther (8616) 4.00 California Dreams (2221) 4.30-5.00 Sweet Valley (8635)

NICKELODEON
7.00am Bailink (9280548) 7.05 Hero Turtles (7623513) 7.45 Rugrats (398109) 8.15 The Ferals (474093) 8.45 Count Duckula (8739780) 9.00 Nick Jr (153161) 12.00 Lunchbox (73258) 12.30pm Pee Wee's Playhouse (15722) 1.00 The Ferals (72093) 1.30 Dungeons and Dragons (14093) 2.00 Denver (9451) 2.30 Galaxy High School (5703) 3.00 Count Duckula (5258) 3.30 The North Wind (7548) 4.00 Hero Turtles (3155) 4.30 Rugrats (5567) 5.00 Clarissa (6613) 5.30 Global Cuts (6819) 6.00 Doug (6432) 6.30-7.00 Duckula (4884)

DISCOVERY
4.00pm Nature Watch (7715987) 4.30 Life in the Wild (7631971) 5.00 Realm of Darkness (9523703) 6.00 Future Quest (9848074) 6.35 Beyond 2000 (1143646) 7.30 Mysteries, Magic and Miracles (7632600) 8.00 Wonders of Weather (9533180) 8.30 Ultra Science (9529987) 9.00 Top Guns (5983109) 9.30 Science Detectives (7527426) 10.00 The Sexual Imperative (1143451) 11.00 Driving Passions (5882426) 11.30-12.00 Special Forces (1896797)

BRAVO
12.00 FILM: The Slime People (3187258) 1.30pm Scotland Yard (7606987) 2.00 Danger Man (1695068) 3.00 Robin Hood (9538277) 3.30 The Protectors (7723906) 4.00 FILM: Ten Little Indians (9530093) 6.00 Scotland Yard (7712890) 6.30 UFO (1151987) 7.30 Robin Hood (7638426) 8.00 Space 1999 (1051426) 9.00 The Prisoner (1137890) 10.00-12.00 FILM: Evil Dead II (5961987).

UK LIVING
6.00am Agony Hour (9488797) 7.00 Living Magazine (1918890) 9.00 The Treatment (7066277) 9.30 Kate & Allie (1125884) 10.00 Hearts of Gold (8244890) 10.40 Bride of the Day (54645722) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (4520971) 11.55 Masterchef (6577258) 12.30pm Brookside (4020093) 1.05 Kilroy (6438548) 2.00 Agony Hour (4515345) 3.00 Living Magazine (9131616) 4.00 Infatuation UK (9870529) 4.30 Crosswits (7720432) 5.05 The Joker's Wild (72191433) 5.30 Bewitched (8883093) 6.00 Esther (9880906) 6.30 Brookside (3567890) 7.05 Jerry Springer (4032364) 8.00 The Young and the Restless (2066797) 9.00 FILM: Miles To Go (17795548) 10.50 Entertainment Now (6587635) 11.00-12.00 Dangerous Women (1832428)

FAMILY CHANNEL
5.00pm Wonder Years (6528) 5.30 Tintin (925548) 5.50 Batman (523221) 6.25 Catchphrase (975780) 7.00 Through The Keyhole (9093) 7.30 My Two Dads (7364) 8.00 Darling Buds (98285) 9.00 Ruth Rendell (18971) 10.00 Busman's Holiday (27093) 10.30 Moonlighting (81635) 11.30 Batman (75277) 12.00 Tintin (98285) 12.30am Second Guess (87882) 1.00 Zorro (72778) 1.30 Rhoda (80285) 2.00 Moonlighting (30952) 3.00 Rhoda (52914) 3.30 Zorro (39198) 4.00 The Wonder Years (48991) 4.30-5.00 The Black Stallion (53643)

MTV
6.00am Wildside (66074) 7.30 The Grind (96258) 8.00 3 from 1 (8498258) 8.15 Wildside (9779987) 9.00 VJ Maria (799987) 12.00 Soul (58093) 1.00pm Greatest Hits (69513) 2.00 Music (72180) 3.00 3 from 1 (5829068) 3.15 Music (6117180) 3.30 Sports (7154) 4.00 Cinematic (3394258) 4.15 Hanging Out (7599790) 5.00 News (1250426) 5.15 Hanging Out (5022345) 5.30 Dial (9345) 6.00 Dance (6258) 6.30 Hanging Out (35093) 7.30 The Pulse (9722) 8.00 Greatest Hits (98203) 9.00 Most Wanted (61890) 10.30 Beavis (32971) 11.00 News (388838) 11.15 Cinematic (361161) 11.30 Aeon Flux (64819) 12.30 The End? (23049) 1.30am Videos (3138440)

VH-1
7.00am Power Breakfast (2850093) 9.00 Cafe (1578567) 12.00 Heart (5563109) 1.00pm Vinyl (5549529) 2.00 Best (4583345) 3.00 Music (2124258) 6.00 Ali Campbell/UB40 (5552093) 7.00 For You (2901513) 8.00 Thursday Review (2093161) 9.00 Best (2907797) 10.00 Vinyl (2900884) 11.00 The Bridge (4803722) 1.00am Best (5691643) 2.00 Dawn Patrol

CMT EUROPE
Country music from 6am to 7pm

ZEE TV
7.00am Asian Morning (90573839) 8.30 Yule Love Stories (54704093) 9.00 Movie: Annamalai (69469906) 12.00 Campus (54715109) 12.30pm India Show (45512635) 1.00 Movie: Dus Numbri (96762180) 4.00 Hip Hip Hurray (99038819) 5.00 Zee Zone (68762548) 5.30 Punjabi Folk (10084093) 6.00 Campus (10061906) 6.30 Zee (10052258) 7.00 Newsearch (66579884) 7.30 Dillagi (10878242) 8.00 News (68751432) 8.30 Galaxzee (68770567) 9.00 Andaz (97888797) 10.00 Zee Horror Show (54716838) 10.30 Commander (54792258) 11.00 Ras Barsa (89039548) 11.30-12.00 Krishna (23078838)

CARTOON NETWORK/TNT
Continuous cartoons from 5am to 7pm, then TNT films as below.
8.00pm Made in Paris (1965) (65438451) 10.00 Boom Town (1940) (28485984) 12.15am Callaway Went Thataway (1951) (67188391) 1.40 A Touch of the Sun (1956)(79378952) 3.10 What a Carve Up (1962) (91839933)

CNN/QVC
CNN provides 24-hour news and QVC is the home shopping channel

BASKETBALL 42
NBA DEMANDS THAT CLUBS KEEP THE NOISE DOWN

SPORT

THURSDAY OCTOBER 19 1995

GOLF 44
NORMAN STAYS CALM AT CENTRE OF ST ANDREWS' STORM

Outside pressures take heavy toll as German slumps to unexpected defeat

Graf succumbs to greatest humiliation

By Stuart Jones, Tennis Correspondent

STEFFI GRAF came to Brighton, a quiet backwater of a women's tournament, to escape from a relentless hounding from the German media. She described the visit to the south coast as "a little holiday". It ended yesterday with the biggest humiliation of her career.

Unrecognisable from the woman who had collected the championships at the French Open, Wimbledon and US Open, where she last played six weeks ago, she was knocked out by an undistinguished, though talented, qualifier. The ignominy was inflicted by Mariaan de Swardt, a burly and bespectacled 24-year-old from South Africa.

Not since she was beaten in the same indoor arena by Jo Durie a decade ago has Graf yielded to an opponent ranked outside the world's top 50. She was then aged 16, two years away from claiming her first grand slam tournament and three years before she became officially rated as the best player in the world.

Graf had since suffered a mere 16 losses and a curiously symmetrical ring surrounds the two imposed this year. The other, at the Canadian Open in Toronto, was also at the hands of a South African, Amanda Coetzer, and also in the second round after Graf had received a bye.

This time, indisputably, there were cruelly extenuating circumstances. For the last two months, Graf has become increasingly embroiled in the case concerning the alleged tax evasion of her father, who is being held in a remand prison in Germany and whom she has been allowed to see only once.

Either directly or indirectly, she has been mentioned virtually daily on the front pages of German newspapers. Their representatives pursued her to Brighton, which she had imagined might be a safe, albeit temporary, haven during a period she confessed has been the unhappiest of her life.

She did not hide behind excuses, even though she played as poorly as anyone could remember. Instead, she paid a dignified and startlingly generous tribute to de Swardt as she faced a phalanx of interrogators, gathered in unprecedented numbers for the press conference.

Lights, cameras, reaction. "For a set and a half, that was the best any woman has ever played against me," she declared. Better, that is, than Martina Navratilova, Chris Evert, Tracy Austin, Monica Seles, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario or Conchita Martinez.

"I couldn't do any more than I did. I didn't think that I was going to lose, but I knew that it might happen. There is nothing that I can blame it on. I practised more than enough and I didn't feel nervous on court." In that case, appearances were deceptive.

She averaged more than a double fault throughout the first set, conceded seven successive games and was heading towards a calamitous defeat in straight sets within an hour. She was full of the hesitation, doubt and diffidence that she habitually instils in her opponents.

On the point of falling 0-4 down in the second set, she rallied to take six successive games, but yielded six of the next seven to go out 6-2, 4-6, 6-1 in an hour and a half. Her run of 30 successive wins at Brighton, including six titles, was brought to a swift conclusion.

She was asked what she might do now to relax. "Relax? I don't know about that," she replied. She intends to compete in Philadelphia and New York, dismissing the possibility of playing in Oakland as well. She disclosed that she is physically incapable of taking part in three consecutive events. Her future, already in doubt because of a persistent and chronic back complaint, will continue to be the subject of speculation for as long as her father faces the threat of long-term incarceration.

De Swardt packs a heavy punch, once hitting an ace on a second serve with the use of the shoulder that required surgery last year. Her fifth win of the week, which will appreciably improve her present ranking of No 54, took her into the last eight.

As the top half of the draw lost the top seed, so the bottom half lost the No 2 seed. Jana Novotna, complaining of influenza, conceded the last ten games to go out to Miriam Oremans, 6-4, 6-0. The curtain seems to have fallen prematurely on the last tournament at Brighton, which closes on Sunday.

RESULTS

First round: M Oremans (Holl) bt K Maleeva (Bul) 7-5, 6-1; K Nowak (Pol) bt J Kandarr (Ger) 6-2, 6-4; B Paulus (Austria) bt J Kruger (SA) 6-0, 7-6; B Rittner (Ger) bt R Dragomir (Rom) 6-3, 7-5.

Second round: M de Swardt (SA) bt S Graf (Ger) 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; M Oremans (Holl) bt J Novotna (Cz) 6-4, 6-0; K Boogert (Holl) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; A Coetzer (SA) bt A Carlsson (Swe) 6-2, 6-3.

Graf struggles to find answers after her extraordinary defeat by the unseeded de Swardt at Brighton yesterday

England trail in cricket's mind-game stakes

By Simon Wilde

SOUTH Africa and England will break new ground this winter not only by contesting the first Test series between the countries since 1965, but also in the extent to which the cricket will be fought on the battlefields of mind and body.

At Heathrow yesterday, as the England party assembled for the evening flight to Johannesburg, it was hard to distinguish blazered players from blazered managers, assistant managers, physiotherapists, doctors and specialist coaches. Only when they were shepherded together for photographs was it possible to ascertain that there were 16 of the former and six of the latter.

Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach, has assembled an even more sophisticated backroom staff that includes a psychologist, biokineticist and dietician, not to mention a battalion of jelly babies for nutritional support. There was a time when players turned up and played. Not any more.

Woolmer was complimentary yesterday about the team that Michael Atherton, the England captain, brings, calling it "settled and resurgent". It is South Africa, though, who enter the Test series with the advantage. They have won their past five Tests and have in Woolmer perhaps the most innovative coach in the world.

"He has revolutionised top-level cricket here," Hansie Cronje, the national captain, said. "We think, talk and play the game differently now."

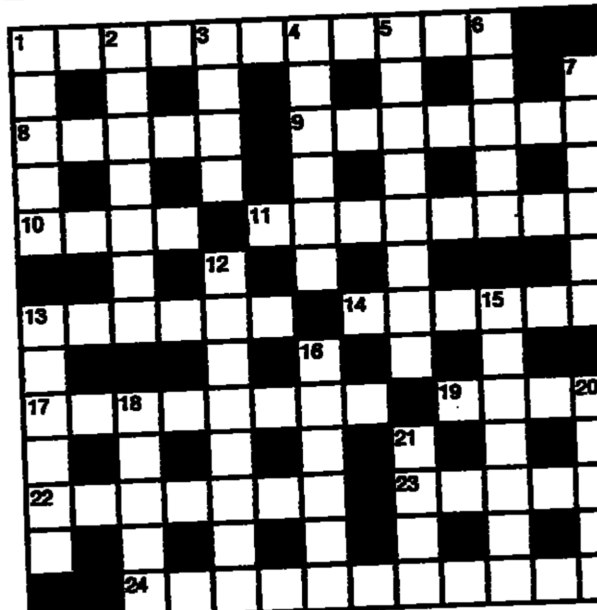
Woolmer himself vows the changes will continue and is not only preparing for the England tour, but also the World Cup early next year and South Africa's first Test series with West Indies in three years' time. "No coach, captain or player can say they have achieved everything until they have beaten the Windies. They come to South Africa in 1998-99 and I hope I'm still around for the challenge."

Woolmer has a better chance than Raymond Illingworth, his England counterpart, of being around then. Illingworth's contract is up for renewal next spring and even he, a reluctant tourist, does not know what will happen after that.

Photograph, page 24
Warm welcome, page 46
Medical advice, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 604 in association with BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS
1 Idle slob (5,6)
8 Chief *Ring* god (*Wagner*) (5)
9 Educational institution (7)
10 Called; ladder step (4)
11 Extinct reptile, some huge (8)
13 Trinket (6)
14 Give power to; push forward (6)
17 Assumed but unspoken (8)
19 Brewers' mix; pulverise (eg potatoes) (4)
22 Take advantage of; daring feat (7)
23 (Spoken) out (5)
24 Coins, not notes (5,6)

DOWN
1 Cringe in fear (5)
2 Until this moment (2,2,3)
3 (Picture) put up; (jury) split (4)
4 Flower: bee, fly, monkey versions (6)
5 On which quadruped goes (3,5)
6 Last Greek letter (5)
7 Car fuel (6)
12 Province, Winnipeg its capital (8)
13 Peter –, Britten's fisherman (6)
15 Mil. unit under lieutenant (7)
16 Firearm; crony of Falstaff (6)
18 Samuel —, diarist (5)
20 Row of boundary shrubs (5)
21 Reheated dish; a mess (4)

PRIZES:
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.
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How Red Rum bulldozed his way into National history

On April 2, 1977 Red Rum won his third and last Grand National. The Times carried this report by Michael Seely.

The wind blew all Friday night and on Saturday morning the blustery sky was clear. In Birkdale Road, Southport, Red Rum flexed his muscles as he was led from his box and, like any athlete tuned to his peak, was invigorated by the keen air and warmed by the rays of the sun.

The old turf at Aintree is extraordinary. As it poured with rain on Thursday, the hopes of Red Rum's supporters had sunk to their lowest ebb. At the start of Friday's racing, things had started to improve as John Burke, the rider of the first winner, Samuel Pepys, reported that the going was good. But soon afterwards, the heavens opened and everything again seemed lost.

But as I walked the course before the first race on Saturday, the quick draining properties of the Aintree ground and the drying conditions had done their work. In the Sun Ratings Steeplechase, Skymas, twice the two-mile champion steeplechaser and given a superb ride by Mouse Morris, shattered the track record when finishing like a tiger to catch Santon Brig close to home.

In the Templegate Hurdle, the champion, Night Nurse, after surviving a bad blunder at the third-last, gave the 51,000 crowd the thrill of a lifetime when forcing a dead heat with Monksfield in another fast time. And so the scene was set and, for the first time this week, the incredible success for Red Rum seemed on the cards.

Just under an hour later, it was all over. Among scenes of unparalleled enthusiasm, Red Rum had won his third Grand National. Hard-headed racing regulars were streaming from the stands, elated to a pitch of unbelievable enthusiasm. The large bowler-hatted figure of Lord Grimthorpe, with tears streaming down his cheeks, was hugging an equally emotional Mrs. Stack.

Even Tommy Stack himself, as cool a cat as ever left Co. Kilkenny, was furtively dabbing his eyes as he rode in triumph back to the unsaddling enclosure. Ron Pollard, a director of Ladbrokes, added a further bizarre touch to the scene by bursting into the press room, his eyes wild with excitement, shouting: "We've lost a quarter of million and I simply don't care."

The feelings evoked by Red Rum are a sense of nationwide identification with this remarkable survivor of 10 seasons of arduous campaigning. Red Rum is unique. Horses that are ridden into the ground as two-year-olds do not come back to win three Grand Nationals as well as being placed second in two other runs.

This was the recurrent theme of Stack's narrative after the race. Paul Cook, Geoff Lewis and Lester Piggott are but three of the jockeys who subjected Red Rum to hard races on the Flat. "I'm as guilty as anyone", Stack said with an air of wonderment in his voice. "Many's the time in the past that I've slogged him unmercifully around Catterick."

Red Rum's tough life has served only as the perfect preparation for turning him into an Aintree specialist. It is his sense of self-preservation, allied to an unusual intelligence as much as his courage, that has made Red Rum a canny, watchful horse who swerves and sidesteps, taking enormous fences in his stride.

"He sees them as a challenge", Stack said. "We weren't going too well as we set out into the country the last time round. But the moment we reached the next fence, Red Rum had forgotten about his galloping and was concentrating only in avoiding trouble and getting over the jumps."

Jeff King, on What A Buck, confirmed it. "At one time, a loose horse ran straight down the fence in front of them. There was no way that they could have survived, but they did." And so, like a wary, inexorable tank, Red Rum bulldozed his way into history.

Tommy Stack and Red Rum, the heroes of Aintree on April 2, 1977. Photograph: Stewart Fraser

Simon Barnes, page 1
National hero, page 45

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